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Contents 11/2008



Q

Pet of
the Month
Audrey Bitoni
page 72

PICTORIALS

38 Summers Love

Sandy Summers

72 Great Expectations

Pet of the Month

Audrey Bitoni

94 Golden Girls

Heather Vandeven and
Devon

112 Express Yourself

Jennifer Avelon

128 Auto Erotica

Sandra and Judy

FULL FRONTAL

11 DVDs

Jenna Jameson in *Zombie Strippers!*, and other reviews.

14 Flicks

Josh Brolin channels W, plus reviews and reviews.

16 Sounds

Everlast speaks his mind, Australia's best metal band returns, and more.

22 Reads

Enjoying unemployment, playing with skulls, and reviews.

LIFE ON TOP

25 Fitness First Aid

You don't have to wait for the new year to resolve to get in shape.

28 Freewheelin'

The Aprilia Mana 850,

30 Pet Peeves

Jessica Jaymes's tips for hot sex dates.

32 The Pour House

The negroni—perfect preholiday fare.



Get the Pet of the Month on your cell-phone each week! Text POM to 82000. For terms and conditions, see centerfold.

Contents 11/2008

FEATURES

34 Penthouse Top 40

Dr. Z's prescription for an optimum love life.

54 Screen Saviors

Rebecca Swanner picks the most awesome new videogames.

60 Highlanders

A Penthouse Pet, a reality-TV star, and two regular joes compete in the Drambuie Pursuit in the rugged north of Scotland.

64 Metallica: Don't Call It a Comeback

The monsters of rock return.

68 Drug Test

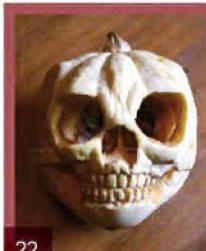
What exactly is salvia? And how much longer will it be (mostly) legal? By Whitney Joiner

88 The Sham Rocketeer

Trying to find the Luke Skywalker of jetpacks. By Mac Montandon

106 Revving Our Engines

The Myrtle Beach Penthouse Club celebrates Bike Week. By Kara Wahlgren



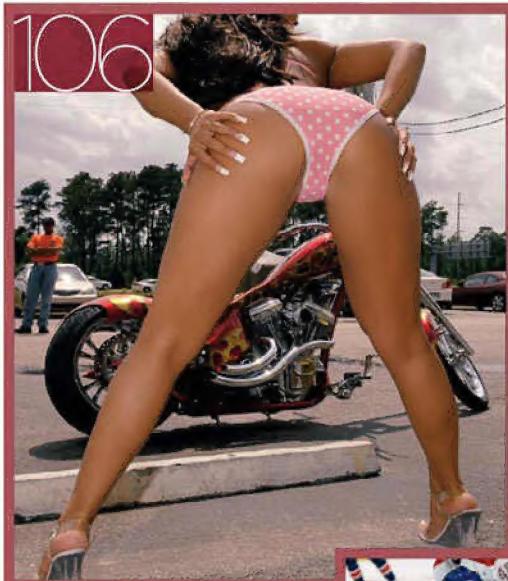
22



28



16



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So much for soy's wholesome reputation.

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Hot Talk

Whenever I used to read a story about someone having an unbelievable online relationship or incredibly hot phone sex, I always thought, *Oh, please! That's such bullshit!* Then a few months ago, a high school classmate contacted me through a reunion website. At first I wondered why. We'd had a couple of classes together, but he had been so far off my radar that I'd never given him a second thought—he was too quiet and reserved for my taste. So what made him think I would be interested in him now?

As it turned out, he was pretty funny and we started e-mailing back and forth several times a week, swapping stories about our jobs and our spouses. I actually began to look forward to his notes, and we got deep into what I can only call a long-distance flirtationship. We'd joke and tease each other, with each message

becoming more laden with sexual innuendos. When he suggested we exchange numbers, the flirting morphed into full-blown phone sex. I couldn't believe the things we said to each other. Finally, I suggested we exchange pictures—I was surprised by how different he looked. I mean, he was okay in a nerdy kind of way in high school, but now he looked totally fuckable!

When I told him how horny he made me feel, he sent me a vibrator, which I used during our next call

I took him in as deep as I could. His moans of pleasure were music to my ears. I gave it my best until I felt his hot release in my mouth.

while he jerked off. Afterward, we couldn't stop giggling about the whole thing, and before I knew it, we'd agreed to meet that weekend. We were so amped about our plans that we took turns describing what we were going to do to each other. It was so hot that we talked each other to mutual orgasms again. It was the most hilarious and rewarding sexual experience I'd ever had.

When the day came, we met in a nearby park. I was amazed that he looked even better in person. We hugged each other and shared a few awesome, tongue-filled kisses. Then we took his car and drove to a field outside town, where we pounced on each other. I gave him the hummer of his life while he finger-fucked my dripping-wet pussy and gave me my first orgasm of the day. Then we drove to a hotel, had a few drinks at the bar, and reminisced. I asked him why he'd never tried to talk to me when we were in school, and he said I only went out with jocks. I told him I was glad he took a chance and looked me up.

To show him just how much I appreciated him reaching out to me, I booked a room. As soon as we were behind closed doors, I stripped him naked and gave him another blowjob, but I took my own sweet time about it. I pushed him back on the bed and crawled between his legs, held his stiff cock at the base, sucked the head, and licked the pre-come from the tip. I licked up and down and around his balls until he begged me to suck him off. I took him in as deep as I could. His moans of pleasure were music to my ears. I gave it my best until he shuddered beneath me and I felt his hot release in my mouth.

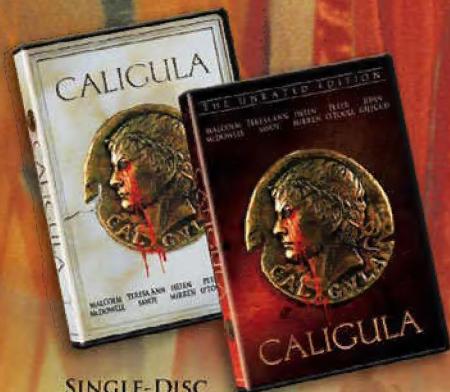
Afterward, he returned the favor, making me come several times and showing no sign of letting up—until I begged him to fuck me. We humped each other's brains out, moving from position to position, breaking for a rest, then starting up again, trying to live up to our kinky phone calls.

We had the best time and agreed to hook up again, as long as our spouses didn't find out. In the meantime, we continue to burn up the phone lines with our hot conversations!—Name and address withheld

"Forum" letters should carry name and address, though these and other identifying characteristics will be changed for publication purposes. All letters become the property of Penthouse. Send letters to ForumSubmission@ffn.com or Penthouse Editorial Dept., 2 Penn Plaza, Suite 1125, New York, N.Y. 10121.

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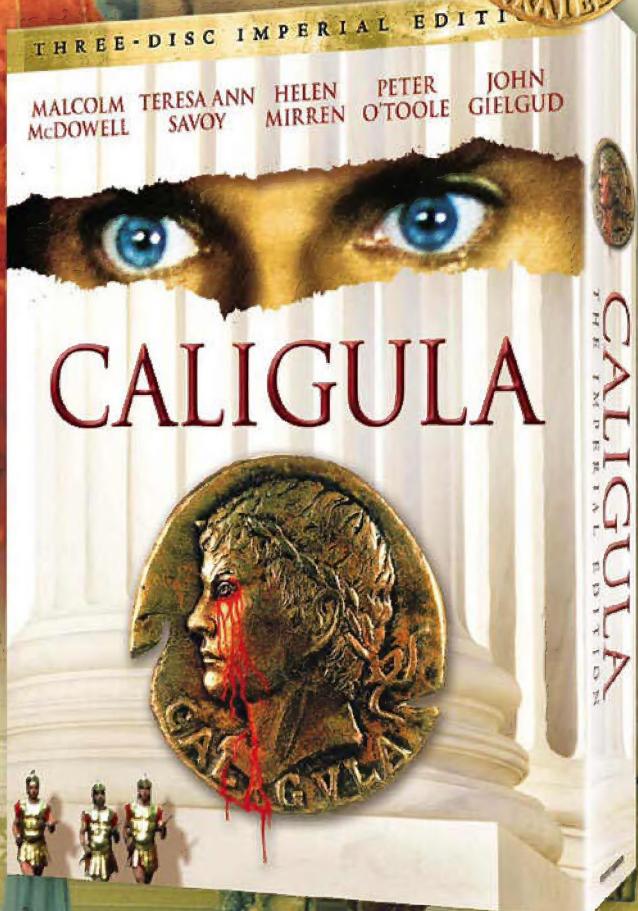


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WEEKEND TRYST

About a month ago, my boyfriend and I experienced our first threesome, and while it was exciting and satisfying, for me it started weeks before that encounter. When my boyfriend had asked if I'd ever thought about three-ways, I had feigned disinterest. The truth was, I'd done some experimenting in college—I just hadn't told him. And besides, I was having a ball watching him try to talk me into something I'd been wanting to do for a while. I told him I'd have to think about it—that I would keep an open mind, and that maybe, just maybe, if I met the right girl I'd consider it.

Actually, I had the perfect girl in mind the whole time. Carly and I had met six months earlier at the fitness center. She's my age, 30, and as beautiful a woman as I've ever met. I knew she had broken up with her boyfriend, so I thought she might be in need of a good night of sex. When I told her about our plan and asked if she could get with it, she said she'd try just about anything once.

My boyfriend travels on business quite often, and according to his schedule, the first free weekend was five weeks away. Carly and I began making plans to surprise him. Then, three weeks before our date, when my boyfriend was out of town, Carly stopped by to show me something she'd just bought. My pussy immediately got wet when she handed me a leather harness with a seven-inch cock attached to it. I told Carly it was a shame we had to wait three more weeks to be together and use this toy on each other. And what do you know? Horny minds think alike. Carly didn't think we should wait either.

We took to the bedroom and quickly undressed. Then I pulled Carly toward the bed, and we kissed as our hands slowly explored each other's breasts. As we became more comfortable holding and touching each other, I let my hands travel down her curvy hips and between us to cup her mound. She did the same to me, and I'm sure she discovered I was as slippery and wet as she was.

I couldn't wait any longer to suck and fuck Carly, so I gave her one more kiss before reaching for the harness and strapping it on. I spread Carly's legs and planted light kisses along the insides of her thighs and inhaled the sweet scent of her sex before pressing my lips to her twat and licking deep between her folds.



"God, you taste so fucking good!" I moaned. I didn't have to worry about it being Carly's first time. She was totally into it. Her fingers were tangled in my hair as she pulled me even closer to her cunt. I looped my arms under her thighs and sucked on her clit.

"Oh, yes! That's it!" she cried out, just before her hips came up off the bed and I felt a ginormous orgasm rip through her.

Carly continued to hold on to me until her tremors subsided. When her frantic breathing slowed to normal, I grabbed a pillow and stuffed it beneath her ass, then knelt between her legs and slowly began pressing the dildo into her pussy.

"I want all of it, Tanya! Put all of it in and fuck me!" she screamed.

I was getting off just watching it disappear into her cunt, but she was squirming and pushing her hips toward me, urging me to go faster.

She mounted me doggie-style and fucked me hard and fast, not stopping until I'd climaxed twice. Then we finished up in a sixty-nine.

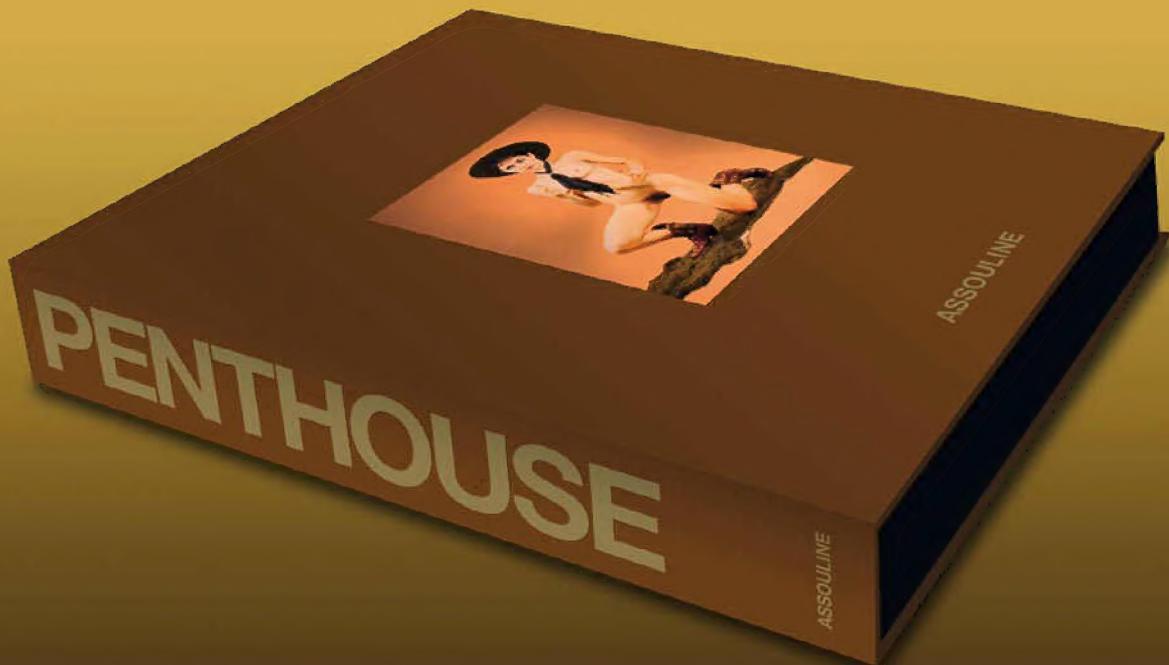
"Fuck me! Fuck me!" Carly cried as I lay atop her, pounding her juicy cunt hard and deep with my rubber cock until she filled the room with her cries of ecstasy again.

Carly unfastened the harness in a lustful frenzy and strapped it onto herself. Then she went down on me, licking and eating my pussy until she made me come. But when I got ready for her to do me in the missionary position, she told me to get on my hands and knees, mounted me doggie-style, and fucked me hard and fast, not stopping until I'd climaxed twice. Then we finished up in a sixty-nine, minus the harness.

As hard as it was after that first time, Carly and I managed to stay away from each other until the night we surprised my boyfriend. He loved every minute of our three-way, but seemed suspicious and commented more than once on how comfortable and relaxed Carly and I were getting each other off. But we didn't confess until we were taking turns sucking his cock. He got so excited when we told him what we did while he was away that he went off like a rocket! There was jizz all over the place, but Carly and I had a good time licking it up.—T.R., Minnesota

More letters on page 140

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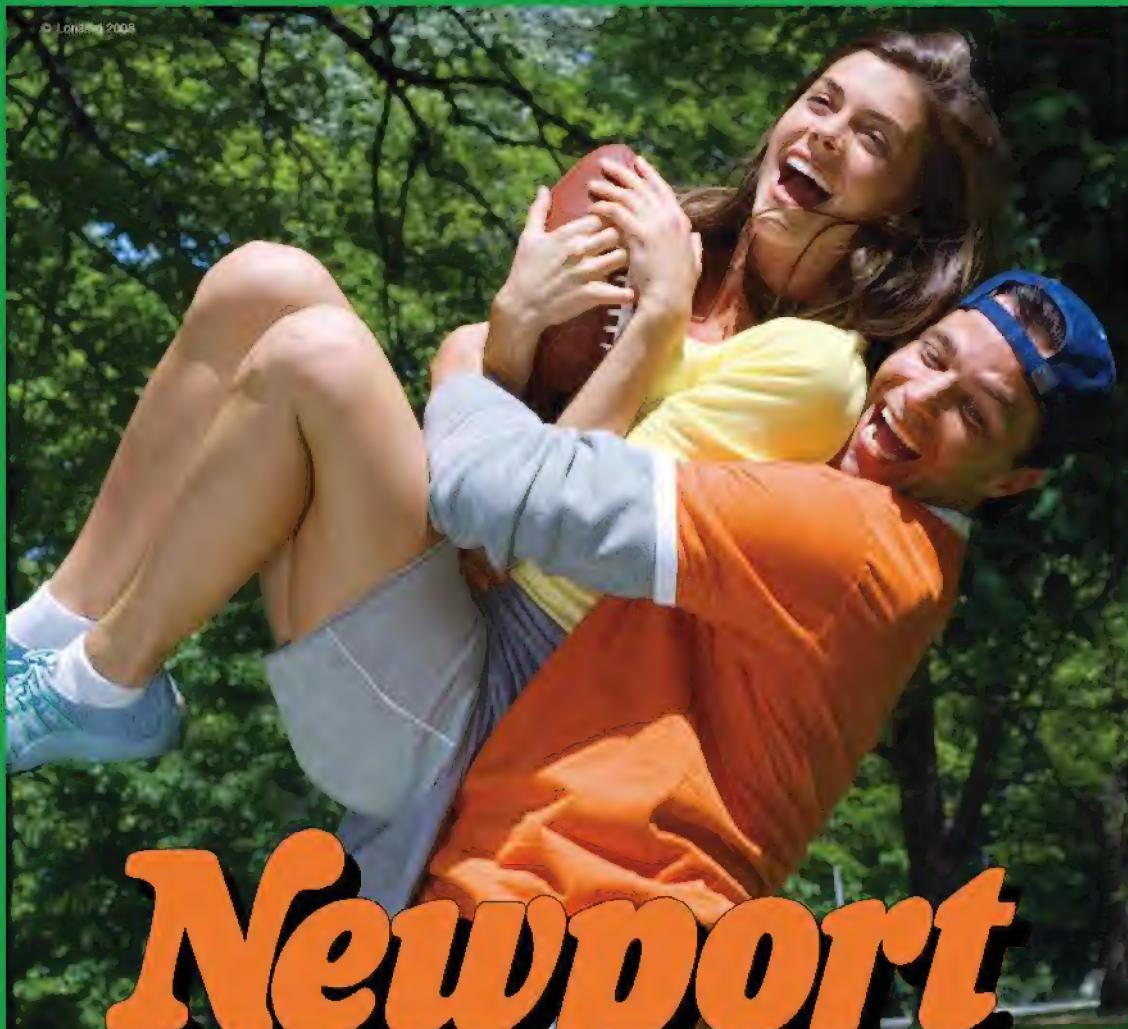
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Strip Show

Zombies? Check. Strippers? Check. Zombie strippers? Oh, yeah. And, according to this new DVD, the undead can really dance, especially when led by Penthouse Pet Jenna Jameson.

ZOMBIE STRIPPERS!

The Plot: A secret government experiment goes awry (natch), and an infected soldier carries a zombie virus to an underground strip club. When newly undead dancers take the stage, the crowd goes wild, the money pours in, and the blood flows freely.

Buy or Rent? Rent. The film is full of spouting fluids, severed body parts, and, yes, topless actresses, so it's great for fans of campy horror. But it's also rife with heavy-handed political rhetoric, annoyingly existential strippers, and forced humor that's not as funny as it should or could be.

Added Value? The Blu-ray version has a pop-up fact track and additional gory scenes.



FullFrontal DVDS

REVIEWS // BY BARBARA RICE THOMPSON



INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

The Plot: For the fifth of you who haven't seen it yet: Indy is back, albeit in the form of a way older Harrison Ford, and accompanied on his quest for the crystal skull by newcomer Mutt Williams (Hollywood golden boy Shia LaBeouf).

Buy or Rent? Buy it on Blu-ray. This is the first high-def Indiana Jones movie, and you know you've been waiting for it.

Added Value? The two-disc Blu-ray set boasts three timelines with featurettes, a preproduction documentary, and production diaries with more than a dozen behind-the-scenes featurettes.



POLTERGEIST

The Plot: *They're heeere.* This is the smart tale of an irreverent suburban family tormented by paranormal forces because their house was built atop an old cemetery.

Buy or Rent? Buy. This film never gets old. No matter how many times you watch Craig T. Nelson eat maggoty steak, hear the eerie Zelda Rubinstein say, "Stay away from the light," or cringe as the toy clown comes to life, *Poltergeist* will haunt you.

Added Value? The Blu-ray release comes with a 44-page booklet of insider scoop and never-before-seen photos, plus a doc called *They Are Here: The Real World of Poltergeists Revealed.*

—Christine Colby

Poltergeist is a smart tale of an irreverent suburban family tormented by paranormal forces.

POULTRYGEIST: NIGHT OF THE CHICKEN DEAD

The Plot: The new American Chicken Bunker fast-food joint was, yup, built above an ancient Tromahawk tribe burial ground. Chicken zombies ensue. Troma's trademark mélange of B-grade sex and gore takes on the evil deep-fried conglomerates as well as the topless, vegan lesbians who hate them. **Buy or Rent?** Buy. This is the best Troma movie since *The Toxic Avenger*. (And the future of America's longest-operating indie studio may well depend on the success of this release.) Replay the lesbian make-out scenes repeatedly!

Added Value? This three-disc set includes a feature-length, behind-the-scenes doc that delivers more of the low-brow humor and bad taste Troma is known for.—C.C.



THE INCREDIBLE HULK

The Plot: Bruce Banner, the mild-mannered scientist looking for a cure for the gamma radiation that turned him into the Hulk, is brought out of hiding by the Abomination, whose strength is even greater than the Hulk's.

Buy or Rent? Buy. Edward Norton is a trip to watch, and Tim Roth throws himself full throttle into the Abomination. It's definitely worth watching more than once.

Added Value? An in-depth making-of doc, three "hulking out" featurettes, becoming the Hulk/the Abomination features, and a comic-book-to-screen doc.



PIPING OUR OWN

The infamous *Caligula* makes its first showing in high-def. The two-disc Blu-ray release includes high-def transfers from the original negatives of the uncensored theatrical cut and the alternate

prerelease cut, three audio commentaries, Gore Vidal's screenplay, three features from Penthouse magazine, and an interview with Penthouse founder Bob Guccione.



BOND ON BLU-RAY

Since *Casino Royale* broke sales records for Blu-ray discs when it was released, it was only a matter of time before James Bond again found his way into the world of high-definition video. Now, timed to the theatrical release of *Quantum of Solace*, come *Dr. No*, *Die Another Day*, *Live and Let Die*, *For Your Eyes Only*, *From Russia With Love*, and *Thunderball*. All the films have been remastered for the best picture and sound quality, and they've each got a number of bonus features. They're available in three-film sets and on their own, and come with movie tickets for *Quantum*. Other Blu-ray releases we're looking forward to this month include:

- *Body Heat*
- *The Shawshank Redemption*
- *From Dusk Till Dawn*
- *Kiss of the Spider Woman*

Left: Salma Hayek as Santanico Pandemonium in *From Dusk Till Dawn*

THE SARAH SILVERMAN PROGRAM

The Plot: The show has lost none of its signature zaniness. Sarah accidentally joins an anti-abortion group, takes God to her high school reunion, dons blackface for a day, and gets caught licking her dog's ass. Yes, you read that right.

Buy or Rent? Buy. We have to watch these shows more than once to catch all the jokes, just 'cause we're laughing so hard.

Added Value? Two digital shorts, four Silverman reports, four behind-the-scenes featurettes.



THAT '70S SHOW: THE COMPLETE SERIES STASH BOX

The Plot: Teenagers in 1970s Wisconsin get high (often) while navigating the twists and bends of growing up. The show launched the careers of Ashton Kutcher, Topher Grace, and hottie Mila Kunis.

Buy or Rent? Buy—it left the airwaves after eight seasons, and before it jumped the shark.

Added Value? Seventies flashbacks, retrospective features, a trivia show, and more.



PREVIEW // BY JOSHUA ROTHKOPE

W.
Josh Brolin, Elizabeth Banks, Jeffrey Wright, Richard Dreyfuss

And who might that "W." be, given that the director is Oliver Stone? History's not even dry on the page, but Stone is going great guns ablazin' with his irreverent biopic about our president's unlikely rise to power: the drinking, drugs, gentleman's C's at Yale, and accidental political aspirations that landed Dubya, much like Peter Sellers in *Being There*, as leader of the free world. Honestly, we'd love to watch the crazy Stone of *Nixon* (see below) make a comeback after such timid misfires as *World Trade Center*. His cast is especially promising: Expect Dreyfuss to be unhinged playing Darth Cheney, while Wright quietly holds down the film's besieged moral center as Colin Powell. Tragedy or black comedy? If Stone is true to his subject—as well as to his own past as one of America's boldest filmmakers—W. will have healthy doses of both.



All (well, some of) the president's movies

We urge you to cast your vote on November 4, but this election for the best films featuring commanders in chief was totally fixed! Here, the results of our own electoral process.—J.R.



Wild in the Streets (1968)

In this semi-forgotten cult classic, an imagined future has angry kids demanding the vote at age 14. Their campaign is led by charismatic rock star Max Frost (Christopher Jones), who eventually finds his debauched band and their entourage of groupies ensconced in the West Wing. Frost's first official act: ordering a mandatory retirement age of 30, with over-35ers convicted to forced dosing with LSD. It's awesomely strange.



All the President's Men (1976)

While it is arguably the all-time best film about a president, it doesn't have a single shot of the man (Nixon) himself. Instead, it's a triumphant tale of the toppling of our churlish leader. Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman embody *Washington Post* investigative reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein and the journalistic spirit of inquiry at all costs. It's hard to believe that there was a time when a couple of ink-stained wretches could wield such power. Not to mention such incredibly wide ties.



Nixon (1995)

Oliver Stone's gripping biopic combines a fast-paced, paranoiac's version of history with a towering performance by Anthony Hopkins as our criminal in charge. Try the Nixon drinking game: Down a shot with every utterance of "cocksucker." If you make it to Nixon's opening of Red China without falling on your face, you're a stronger man than we are.



Primary Colors (1998)

Blowjobs, late-night chicken wings, and saxophone tooting on *The Arsenic Hall Show*: Ah, the good old Clinton days. When Joe Klein's novelized tell-all was first published anonymously in 1996, many readers were agog at the chicanery on display. Genius director Mike Nichols saw it for what it really was: a comedic tale of two ravenous political animals. An oily John Travolta plays Governor Jack Stanton, while a transformed Emma Thompson is his take-no-prisoners wife, Susan.



Idiocracy (2006)

It was barely given a proper release, but Mike Judge's nightmarish comedy is so spot-on it doesn't even seem like science fiction. After a top-secret government hibernation program goes awry, Joe Bauers (Luke Wilson) awakes 500 years in the future to discover he's the smartest man in a world overrun by trash consumerism. The movie's porn star-cum-president is clever enough to put our hero in charge.

REVIEW

Rachel Getting Married

Anne Hathaway, Rosemarie DeWitt, Bill Irwin
A strange thing happened to Jonathan Demme, director of *The Silence of the Lambs*, as soon as he stepped off the Oscar podium. He forgot how to be Jonathan Demme. That's not to say he never made another *Lambs* (he didn't), but that the critic's darling behind such gentle eighties comedies as *Something Wild*, *Married to the Mob*, and *Melvin and Howard* went AWOL. Happily, that earlier Demme is back, with a multicultural ensemble piece that feels like a dramatic feast. At its core is Hathaway as Kym, a troubled ex-model recently out of rehab and touchingly insecure as her buttoned-down sis Rachel (DeWitt) prepares to marry. Both nuptial families gather at a suburban home and the sparks flicker. In short, it's a Jonathan Demme picture, old-school style.—J.R.



PREVIEWS // BY JOSHUA ROTHKOPF

Quantum of Solace

Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko, Mathieu Amalric
The title's awful, and Amy Winehouse never got it together to record the theme song. Nonetheless, get supremely stoked for Bond 22. That's due mostly to Craig, whose utter reinvention of the role for *Casino Royale* reminded viewers that Ian Fleming's gentleman spy needn't be a very nice man. On deck for the new installment: the lovely Kurylenko, amply filling the dress of Bond's dearly departed Vespa Lynd, and *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*'s Amalric as a wickedly creepy villain. After last summer's *The Bourne Ultimatum* outdid even *Casino Royale* for hazardous action, you can bet that Craig will be getting his hands dirtier in Round Two.



Pride and Glory

Colin Farrell, Edward Norton, Jon Voight
These days, we get cop movies in which charming bad seeds get what they deserve, like *American Gangster*. But where are today's cynical *Serpicos*—films that dared to critique the institutions meant to protect us? Immediately after 9/11, such movies were as popular as all-night stakeouts during wintertime—without donuts. But now the climate is changing: Gavin O'Connor's controversial procedural stars Farrell and Norton as New York City brothers and police officers. Their tough-loving father (Voight) is proud of both his boys, but when one of them is implicated in a sting gone fatal, the impulse to put family over career is seriously tested. Norton is the crusader, following the path of truth to its undesirable ends. We just might have a seventies-style perp in custody.



The Brothers Bloom

Adrien Brody, Rachel Weisz, Mark Ruffalo
If you liked *Brick*, the supremely smart—and smart-assed—teen-sleuth mystery that played like *Touch of Evil* with braces, then it's time to pop a cork. Its writer/director, Rian Johnson, is officially *not* a flash in the pan, as proved by his latest, a verbally supercharged heist comedy that owes a lot to dense plotting and the charms of especially dry-witted actors. Brody and Ruffalo play criminal bros in love with the long con. Enlisting their demolitions expert Bang Bang (*Babel's* Rinko Kikuchi) for the proverbial last job, they stealthily set up on millionaireess Weisz. At times, you'll be reminded of the zanier aspects of *The Usual Suspects*; at others, a Wes Anderson movie, only a lot less cute.



Zach and Miri Make a Porno

Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks, Traci Lords
Is there any doubt that this is our kind of movie? Call it crazy intuition. A certain savvy. But wait: You say it also stars our favorite schlub Rogen, along with Banks (*The 40-Year-Old Virgin's* sex-crazed Beth)? This just gets better and better. (And we haven't even mentioned former professional clothes-remover Ms. Lords.) Rogen and Banks play longtime platonic friends who, pinched by the plummeting economy, decide to shed all shame—and other things—and make a sex tape. Naturally, deeper emotions arise, though not before their opus becomes a hit. Writer/director Kevin Smith hasn't quite lived up to the promise of his 1994 debut, *Clerks*, but *Zach and Miri*—a truly smutty comedy—seems poised to have late-night-replay legs. OH



Everlasting Spirit

The politically impassioned rapper Everlast refuses to keep his mouth shut. That's just one of his many talents.



Several years ago, as part of the world's most famous Irish-American rap outfit, Everlast and his tattooed-up crew touted their ability to "jump around"—and landed a ubiquitous megahit in the process. Now he's lucky to limp through a game of paintball. But that doesn't mean the erstwhile House of Pain resident has mellowed or put his career on ice. With two new records slated for fall release—his solo effort, *Love, War, and the Ghost of Whitey Ford*, and an album with La Coka Nostra, a band composed mainly of former HOP members—and a girlfriend who is none other than Penthouse Pet Cassia Riley, the man has clearly got his hands full.

Billy Gibbons from ZZ Top plays on two songs on your album—"Stone in My

Hand" and "Everyone." How did you get hooked up with His Beardness? He showed up at the studio with a guitar and a little distortion pedal and we went at it. I met him through a friend, and he's come to a few gigs over the years. Every once in a while we have dinner together in Hollywood and shoot the shit and I listen to ZZ Top stories.

What inspired "Stone in My Hand"? A bunch of photographs I saw of some Palestinian kids throwing rocks at a tank in Israel. It kind of blew my mind. You obviously know you're not going to dent a tank with a rock, but

"I showed up with purple bruises all over my body. My doctor was like, 'What the hell are you doing?'"

that spirit—that fighting spirit—really intrigued me. I have a lot of Palestinian friends and a lot of Jewish friends and that conflict is something I take a lot of interest in.

Why did you want to cover Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues"? Seems like a tough track to take on. Partly because when DJ Muggs from Cypress Hill and myself were doing mashups at shows, "Folsom" was one of the songs in the set. After one of the shows, we were backstage and we were like, "Man, 'Folsom' is awesome. We gotta record this." Muggs mixed in "Insane in the Membrane" and it just fit perfect. It's like a new generation's version of it.

Who else do you listen to that fans might not expect? Right now I'm on a kick of listening to

old music, like Sam Cooke and Otis Redding type stuff. I'm not mad at that new Coldplay record. Everything I've heard of it I've liked a lot. I'm a big Radiohead fan, but who isn't nowadays?

Have you and Radiohead's Thom Yorke ever talked about working together?

Unfortunately, I've never met him. I would definitely sit down and shoot the shit with him. I don't approach people to be like, "Let's do work together." If you're hanging out with somebody and the mood to make music strikes the both of you, you sit down and you make some music. For me, music is real personal. To just say, "Here, put your stuff on my stuff" ... It's a little too casual. It's a little too much like fucking somebody you barely know. It could be dangerous.

For sure, in addition to being deep into music, you're a self-identifying sneaker freak. How many pairs do you own?
It's painful. Of those I actually wear, there's a couple hundred. There's another five to six hundred in boxes. I have a few limited pairs of Adidas and stuff like that, but 98 percent of my collection is Nikes and Jordans. It just comes from being a B-boy and [from being into] rap music. I could go outside with the dirtiest ripped-up jeans, fucked-off T-shirt, looking like a bum, but if I've got a little bit of jewelry on and a brand-new pair of sneakers—you can't tell me shit.

You probably don't wear the nice ones when you're playing paintball.
I had to put the paintball guns down at my doctor's request. I showed up one day for a checkup and had purple bruises all over my body. He's like, "What the hell are you doing?" He was a little bit upset at me, because I take blood thinners. It was probably pretty stupid of me to be doing it in the first place, but it's superfun. It's exhilarating. It's like being able to get in the middle of a gunfight without being killed.

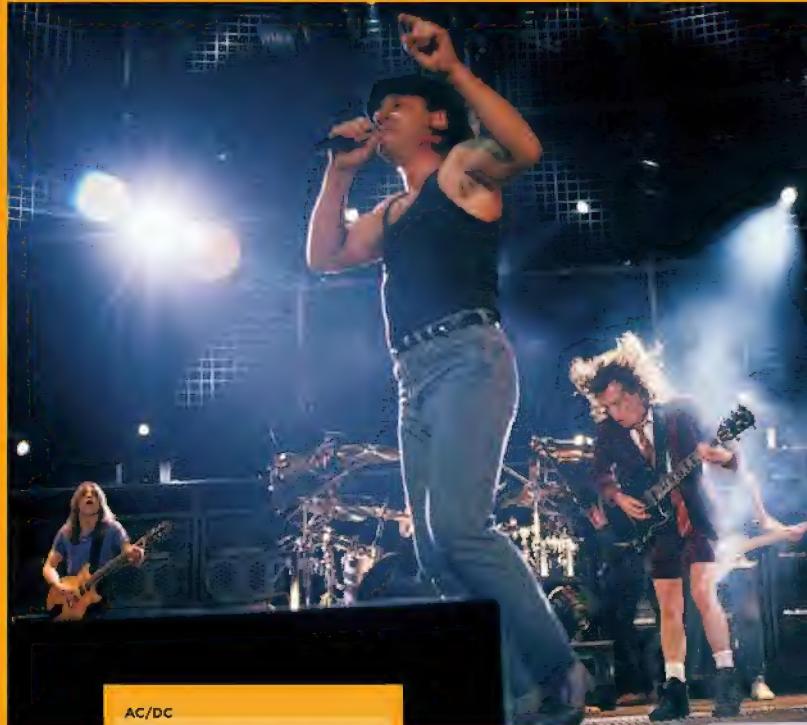
You once took on Will Smith in paintball—being an action star and all, does he have skills?

What happened is me, B-Real, and the guys from Cypress Hill played Will's crew. I think there were 15 of us and 25 of his guys, and they didn't have a chance. It's like sending Iraqi regular army dudes against Special Forces guys from the U.S. They weren't going to win.

MAIN STAGE // BY ANDY GREENWALD

Ballbreakers

Australia's best metal band returns after eight years—and can still shake you all night long.



AC/DC
Black Ice
(Sony/BMG)

★★★
Penthouse Pick: "Anything Goes"

A BRIEF DISCOGRAPHY

Highway to Hell
(Atlantic, 1980)
The last album with hard-living original vocalist Bon Scott. *Hell* is a master class in devilish, big-bottomed rockin'.

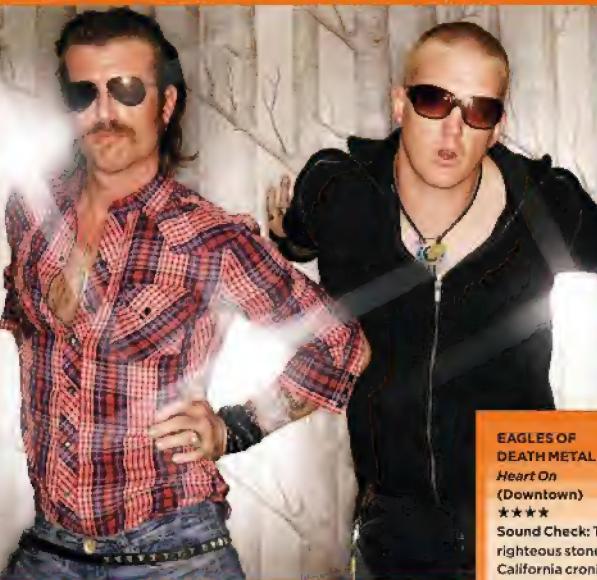
Back in Black
(Atlantic, 1980)
The pop breakthrough—featuring the adrenaline-raising "You Shook Me All Night Long"—was intended as a tribute to Scott, who had died of alcohol poisoning that year.

Ballbreaker
(Elektra, 1995)
The best of the band's later years—until now. This consistently enjoyable album was produced by lifelong AC/DC-obsessive Rick Rubin.

A heart-attack-inducing drumbeat. Blistering, staccato riffs from Angus Young. Brian Jones's liquid Drano yowl. It's a simple recipe that's been known to cause otherwise upstanding young people to sprain their necks, inspire them to throw up the devil horns, and guarantee that their sixth beer somehow tastes better than the fifth. This is the Aussie metal mavens' 15th album, and after three and a half decades together, they're still making it look ridiculously easy. Their razor-sharp focus on rocking, women, and drinking makes it clear that this is the AC/DC we've long admired, not a wimpy tribute band. The opener, "Rock 'N' Roll Train," is a gleeful, thundering slab of power, while the skyscraping "Anything Goes" is as jaunty and anthemic as anything off the seminal *Back in Black*. Consider yourself—and your neck—warned.

FullFrontal SOUNDS

REVIEWS BY ANDY GREENWALD



EAGLES OF DEATH METAL

Heart On (Downtown)

★★★

Sound Check: These righteous stoners are California cronies of Queens of the Stone Age—Queen Josh Homme is also the Eagles' occasional drummer—specializing in playfully loose, tranquilizer-friendly blues-rock.

Amplification: From the sexy riffing of "Wannabe



THE 88

Not Only ... But Also (Island)

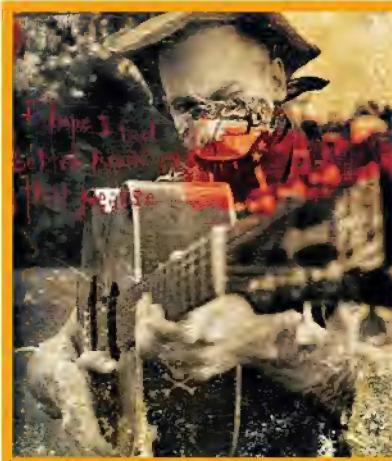
★★

Sound Check: Los Angeles power-pop trio the 88 have been darlings of the Beck-hugging Silver Lake set for years. This is their major-label debut, but their songs have been featured on several soundtracks since 2003.

Amplification: The band hooked up with R&B superstar Babyface to add a big-ticket shine to their reliably catchy zip. Unfortunately, the heavyweight crushes the life out of much of it.

Last Note: The lead single "Coming Home" has been re-recorded since its first incarnation for a Target advertisement.

Penthouse Pick: "Coming Home"



HANK WILLIAMS III

Damn Right Rebel Proud (Sidekick)

★★★

Sound Check: Nashville's least favorite grandson returns with his sixth album of rousing "hellbilly" classic country twang with a shot of profanity-riddled punk attitude on the side.

Amplification: Hank III's appeal stems from his ability to shift from straight, CMT-baiting

balladry ("I Wish I Knew") to left-field ramblings about depression ("Candidate for Suicide"), drugs ("Stoned and Alone"), and the late punk singer G. G. Allin ("P.F.F.").

Last Note: Angry opener "The Grand Ole Opry" advocates the readmission of Hank Williams Sr. to the noted Nashville hall of fame.

Penthouse Pick: "Six Pack of Beer"



JENNY LEWIS

Acid Tongue (Warner Bros.)

★★★

Sound Check: Lewis, the indie pinup and Rilo Kiley singer, returns with her second solo album. Where 2006's *Rabbit Fur Coat* was intimate, *Acid Tongue* is expansive.

Amplification: Inspired by the incestuous Laurel Canyon scene of the 1970s, Lewis throws an alt-country party here: Guests include Elvis Costello, Zooey Deschanel, the Black Crowes' Chris Robinson, and, on harmonica, her dad, Eddie Gordon.

Last Note: Lewis's voice has never sounded more alluring than it does on the soulful "Pretty Bird" and the gospel-touched title track.

Penthouse Pick: "Acid Tongue"

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FullFrontal SOUNDS

PREVIEW

Q-TIP

The Renaissance

(Universal/Motown)

Penthouse Pick: "Life Is Better"

It's been an oddly quiet decade for half-sucked-lozenge-smooth rapper Q-Tip. He had pop success with his first post-A Tribe Called Quest solo album, 1999's *Amplified*, but since then he's had an experimental jazz record shelved by his label, toured with a reunited Tribe, and dated Nicole Kidman. Finally, he's releasing *The Renaissance*, a hip-hop record for the grown-and-sexy set. It features production from Mark Ronson, will.i.am, and the late J Dilla. Fans of Tribe's jazzy bohemianism will find much to like here, especially on "Life Is Better," a silky duet with Norah Jones on which Tip lists nearly every rapper in history—and somehow makes it infectious and hummable.



ONE TO WATCH

DEERHOOF

San Francisco's cutesy and creepy Deerhoof have surprisingly broad appeal. Japanese singer Satomi Matsuzaki, a former film student, possesses a bizarrely high-pitched voice (did we mention the creepiness?), while the three boys in the band toy with hallucinatory, often improvised tracks featuring stop-start rhythms and out-of-the-blue melodic meanderings. The past few years have seen them at their beguiling best, with 2004's *Milk Man*, 2006's score for the indie film *Dedication*, and 2007's *Friend Opportunity* (for which members swapped instruments and flirted with hip-hop). Those efforts widened both their ambition and their fan base, and this month's *Offend Maggie* is likely to expand Deerhoof's quirky empire. —T.S.



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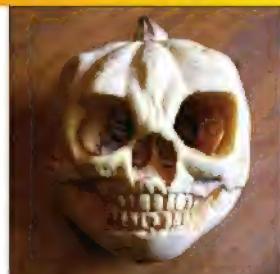
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Skullduggery

Artist Noah Scalin transforms the ultimate icon of death into a celebration of life.

By Peter Bloch

Centuries ago, scholars and learned men kept human skulls on their desks so that they could never escape the grim reality of human existence: *Memento mori*—“Remember, you will die!” Hamlet famously contemplated death and grew nauseated as he held the skull of a clown he had played with and loved as a child. But these days we repress our mortality. Even the coffins returning from Iraq are hidden from view.

So at first glance, Noah Scalin’s *Skulls* (Lark Books), based on his award-winning Skullday blog, seems to be a very unusual twenty-first-

century return to our medieval roots—a grim reminder of ever-present death. But in fact the scintillatingly inventive Scalin is focusing our attention not on our lifeless human remains, but rather on what those skulls encompass and protect—our minds and creative spirits.

As Scalin says, his compulsion to

create a new skull every day for a year made him “much more engaged in the present than I ever had [been] before.” And, he says, instead of keeping him focused on the end of life, his art led him to embrace the counsel of the Roman poet Horace: *Carpe diem*—“Seize the day!”

The 150 marvelous creations he’s included in the book make that point. Cocteaged from plastic garbage bags, basmati rice, computer mice, chipped paint, comic books, paper clips, a bar of soap, and much much more—they celebrate humankind’s irrepressible optimism and determination.

Our attention is focused not on our lifeless human remains but on what our skulls encompass.

No Job, No Prob!

Interview by Rachel Kramer Bussel

Just lost your job—or never found one? Nicholas Nigro feels your pain. In *No Job? No Prob! How to Pay Your Bills, Feed Your Mind, and Have a Blast When You're Out of Work* (Skyhorse Publishing), he offers advice to those who see unemployment as a chance to catch up on their TV watching. Nigro encourages you to beef up your résumé, earn extra cash, make new friends, and try those activities you've been meaning to get around to (and, yes, there's also a suggested movie list).

You say that losing a job can be a blessing in disguise. Why?

There are countless people who unexpectedly lose their livelihoods and, as fate would have it, subsequently land on more hospitable terrain, in jobs or careers that are truly the right fit for them, or in successful businesses of their own.

What's the biggest mistake the newly unemployed make, and what can they do to fix it?

Many people immediately recede into the shadows and permit panic and self-pity to dominate their day-to-day living. When you're out of work, it behooves you to tap into your network and socialize—then socialize some more.

In addition to résumé strategies and job-search tips, you also emphasize having fun, exercising, and doing things you've been putting off. Will these recreational activities help someone find a job, or do they simply make it easier to not go crazy while unemployed?

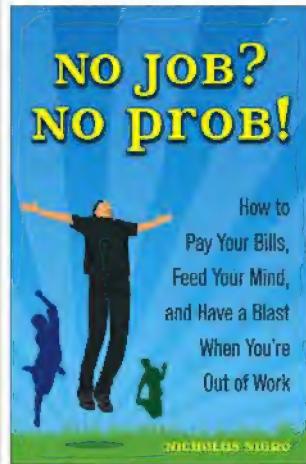
Avoiding the loss of your marbles is certainly job No. 1 here. But, again, the more activities you partake in, and the more people you interact with, the better your future prospects for a new and improved line of work. Look at it this way: Even when you're working out at the gym, you're networking with individuals who might supply you with a worthwhile job lead.

Is it harder to be unemployed now than it was, say, 20 years ago? The answer is yes and no. So

much, of course, depends on your job field and also what you deem a fair compensation for your labors. Unfortunately, many people are losing high-paying jobs and quickly seeing how slim the pickings are for attaining comparable paychecks. You know how it goes: Laid off from a job that pays \$60,000 and getting entry-level offers of \$25,000 or less. This all-too-realistic scenario is particularly relevant for those of us getting a little long in the tooth. But conversely, one of the more encouraging trends in today's economy is the shortage of skilled tradespersons. There are a lot of well-paying, blue-collar jobs that require bona fide skills. I know of college graduates with engineering degrees who have become plumbers and others who have gone to work for carpenters. Many college grads are coming to appreciate that the blue-collar job can often be more lucrative than the white collar. If you have a particular aptitude, you are a valuable human resource in today's labor market.

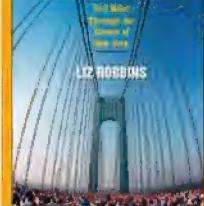
What's the main message you want readers to come away with?

I'd like them to see the book as—above all else—a celebration of human resilience. While never diminishing the gravity of unemployment, *No Job? No Prob!* underscores our inexhaustible capacity to rise from the jobless ashes wiser and more resilient.



REVIEWS

A RACE LIKE NO OTHER



A RACE LIKE NO OTHER:
26.2 MILES THROUGH
THE STREETS OF
NEW YORK

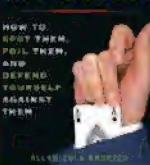
By Liz Robbins
(HarperCollins)

I can safely say that I will never run a marathon. In fact, I'm unlikely to even run around the block. But I still found this fabulous history of the New York City Marathon fascinating because Robbins brings to life the incredible pressures runners are under, as well as explaining their training methods and introducing us to their intense rivalries and friendships. We meet top professionals, as well as wheelchair participants (who had to fight for their right to enter) and a 22-year-old cancer patient.

Robbins's inspirational story doesn't focus on the winners, but on the process, and gives mini-histories of each of the neighborhoods the runners pass through. With races coming down to hundredths of a second for the pros, contestants have to make a game plan, discerning every nuance of their body's strengths and their rivals' pacing. But it's perhaps the regular folk who are most moving here: the men who've run every marathon since 1976, the alcoholic mother fresh out of jail, the men who mark the course by painting Marathon Blue stripes on the pavement.

Whether you're a runner or a coach potato, this will make you at the very least want to watch the marathon, armed with a sense of what each and every mile means to the thousands of competitors who run them.—R.K.B.

52 WAYS TO CHEAT AT POKER



52 WAYS TO CHEAT AT POKER:
HOW TO SPOT
THEM, FOIL THEM,
AND DEFEND
YOURSELF
AGAINST THEM

By Allan Zola Kronzek
(Plume)

The title sounds as if it were carefully vetted by some publishing lawyer: Is this book teaching us how to cheat, or how to avoid being fleeced? No matter. Because once you start reading, even if you've never played a game of poker in your life, you'll find yourself endlessly entertained by the rich history and enticing lore of America's favorite card game. Who knew that Da Vinci published the first tip on secretly marking cards? Or that centuries later, radioactive iodine was used to signal cheaters with dosimeters strapped to their knees and wired to tiny earpieces?

Of course the book is a perfect gift for anyone who loves poker. As a professional magician, Kronzek is totally conversant with the tricks and sleight of hand that cheaters—professional and amateur—have used to perfect their craft. And his book is replete with practical advice for novice and experienced players.

But in the end, for players who want to be totally safe, the best advice comes from the legendary and mysterious S. W. Erdnase, who wrote the first great textbook on cheating: Don't play for money.—P.B.O.—



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Jessica Jaymes
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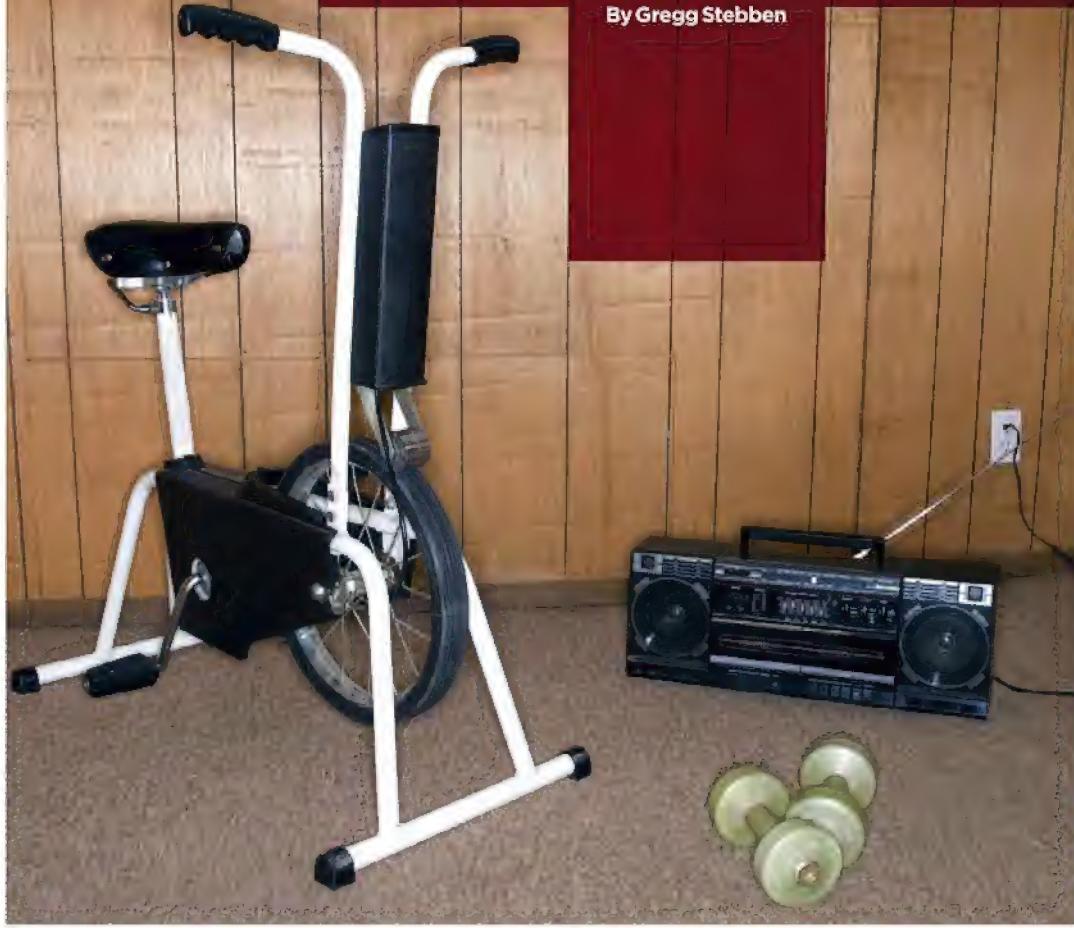
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Fitness First Aid

You don't have to wait for the new year to resolve to get in shape.
Work out your best workout before the holidays.

By Gregg Stebben



HOW TO RIG A BARE-BONES GYM All You Really Need

If you've got more ambition than bucks, here's the get-by, two-part minimum for putting together a workout facility designed primarily to raise your body's metabolism:

- Sneakers
- Jump rope

That's it. Everything else is optional. Run and skip your way to boy-godhood. Ten minutes with a jump rope is worth two days in the sack with Jessica Alba, if burning fat is what you're after.

Cinder blocks in various sizes, some two-by-fours, and a pulley are all you need to rig a cut-rate, cutthroat lifting station.

Add-ons

If money means nothing, add:

- A cross-country skiing machine or a treadmill
- A rowing machine
- Multifunctional, Nautilus-type equipment is nice, but not essential.
- A set of weights. Building muscles is an excellent way to really pump up your body's metabolic rate. Also, muscles eat calories alive.

HOW TO SPEND A LOT OF MONEY GETTING FIT

Join a health club. Talk about money! And if you're like most guys—who join, check out the babes, give it a shot for a few weeks, then disappear—you might as well buy a self-help diet book that you can ignore after a week. It would be a hell of a lot cheaper. Still, there are some valid reasons for joining a gym:

■ **Camaraderie.** Sign up with a bud. The chances of slacking off are halved. Besides, it's more fun.

■ **Instruction.** Most gyms have a trainer or therapist handy.

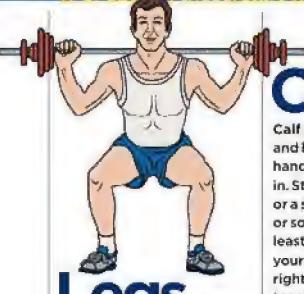
■ **Tools.** Make sure the gym has a full range of equipment and services. Whatever it has, it's likely to be better equipment than most of us can afford.

HOW TO GET TO BUFF FROM FLAB IN A FLASH

Life is short. That's the really bad news. The good news is, your list of essential exercises—the ones you really have to do if the object of your game is keeping your belly off your belt—is also short. There are exercise freaks out there, of course. But face it, you can exercise all day long and go from buff to more buff, but then you die fit and miss life along the way. The better bet: Figure out what part of your body needs fitness first aid, then focus on it.

The Main-Thing Exercise for Each Broken-Down Body Part

(For each of these, start with eight reps and do from there.)

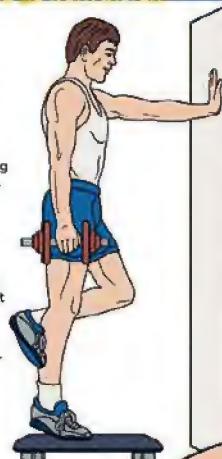


Legs

The squat. Start with your feet slightly apart and a barbell across the back of your shoulders. Now, hunker down, duck-style, like a bear in the woods, until your thighs are parallel to the floor, then slowly raise up.

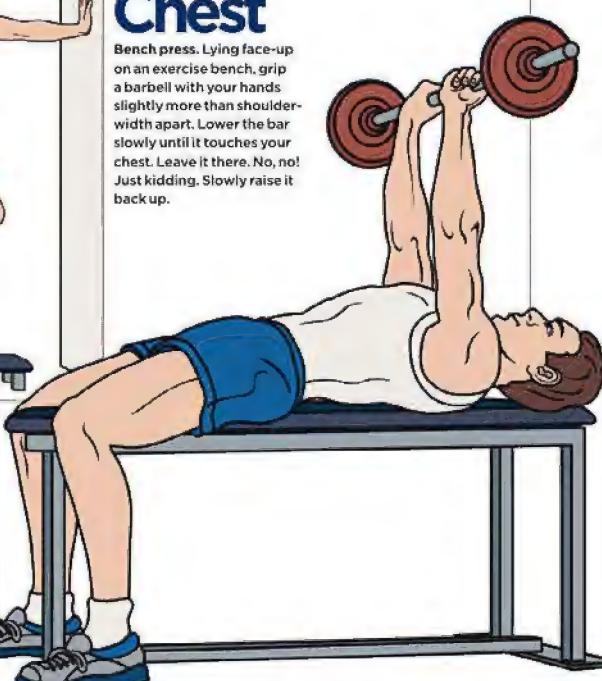
Calves

Calf raise. Grab a dumbbell and hold it in your right hand, arm down, palm facing in. Step onto a riser—a crate or a small bench, maybe, or something else that's at least six inches high. Stick your left foot behind your right heel and rise up on the toes of your right foot. Don't take a tumble; use your left hand to brace yourself against a wall or a girlfriend. Next, lower yourself until your heel is a couple of inches below the top of the box. Do the eight reps, then do it with your left leg, dumbbell in your left hand.



Chest

Bench press. Lying face-up on an exercise bench, grip a barbell with your hands slightly more than shoulder-width apart. Lower the bar slowly until it touches your chest. Leave it there. No, no! Just kidding. Slowly raise it back up.



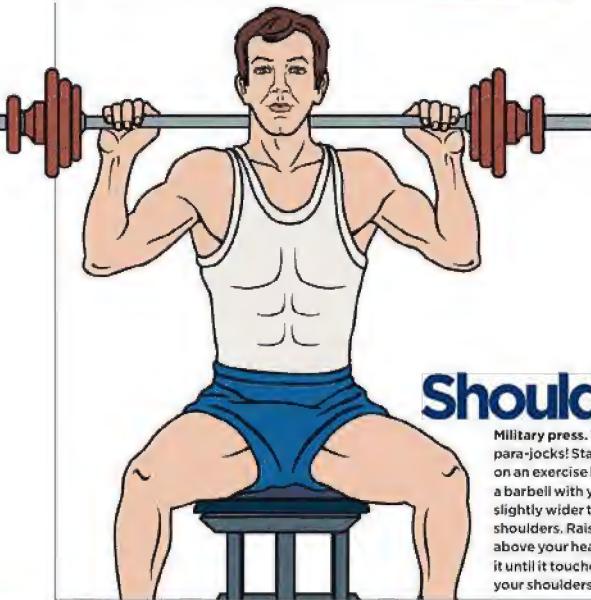
Butt

Kneeling back-kick. Climb up on the end of a workout bench, grasping the sides. Hug it like you love it. Next, raise and extend your right leg directly behind you, until your foot is a few inches higher than your butt. Lower it back down to the bench, repeat seven more times, then switch to your other leg.



Biceps

Dumbbell preacher curl. You need the preacher-curl station of your multifunctional equipment for this one. Rest your upper arms on the pad, palms up. Curl the dumbbells up to your shoulders and down again slowly.



Shoulders

Military press. Ten-hut, para-jocks! Stand up or sit on an exercise bench. Grasp a barbell with your hands slightly wider than your shoulders. Raise the 'bell above your head, then lower it until it touches the back of your shoulders.

Triceps

Triceps pushdowns. Grab hold of a bar attached to a high-pulley cable. With your hands about six inches apart and your elbows against your sides, bring the bar down until your forearms are parallel to the floor. That's where you start. Now, push the bar down until your arms are fully extended. Return to the starting point.



Back

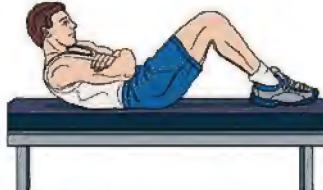
Seated row. You need a machine with a low pulley bar for this one. Sit on the floor in front of the bar, bend your knees a little, then reach out and grab the pulley bar with both hands. Pull it slowly to your chest, keeping your back straight and as much as possible—perpendicular to the floor throughout the movement.

Abdominals

Belly sag is a four-exercise problem. The best of these is the classic crunch, but the others can also help big-time.

Crunch

Lie on your back with your knees bent, feet together and about a foot from your rump. Cross your arms comfortably over your chest and curl upward until your shoulders are raised six inches. Stay there for a sec. Feel that burn? Good. Back down slow and easy.



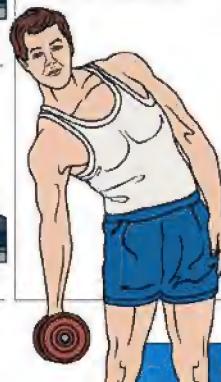
Twisted Crunch

Begin like the classic crunch, but curl your left shoulder toward your right knee until your left shoulder blade is raised. Then come back down slowly and repeat from the other side. Remember to freeze for a couple of seconds at the top of each rep.



Side Bend

Stand with a dumbbell in your right hand. With your back straight, slowly bend to the right as far as possible. Return to the starting point and bend to your left. Do this eight times, then switch sides.



Seated Barbell Twist

Sitting on the end of a bench, place a barbell across the back of your shoulders. Keep your lower body facing forward and twist your torso to the left, back to the center, to the right, and then back again.

The Best of Both Worlds

What do you get when a scooter and a motorcycle mate on a hot Italian night? The 850 Mana—Aprilia's hybrid love child.

By Bill Heald



When it comes to the elemental nature of motorcycles, usually what you see is what you get. This is especially true when it comes to "naked" street bikes that cruise down the road without any confining bodywork, so the engine and associated mechanicals are exposed for all the world to see. One look at the familiar shape of the fuel tank shows you where the motion lotion is located, and the transmission—aside from the number of gears—is pretty much identical no matter the bike.

The Aprilia 850 Mana, however,

is one clever nudist. Despite being unclothed, this crossbreed still manages to hide groundbreaking innovations beneath its stylish lines. Concealed within this middleweight street brawler are features previously found only on high-tech scooters, stealthily housed within a polished,

Who would have thought that a middleweight motorcycle would have a scooter's best attributes?

refined chassis that is all motorcycle. This machine integrates elements of both kinds of rides to create something very special, and the fun starts with a robust 839.3-cc, liquid-cooled, 90-degree V-twin. Equipped with four-valve heads and the latest in fuel-injection technology, the Mana mill generates 76 horsepower with plenty of low-end torque. The engine is bolted into a stiff, elegant, trellis-style steel frame with a lightweight aluminum swingarm. Excellent triple-disc brakes and stout inverted front forks give the Mana sporting



SPECIFICATIONS

Engine type	Liquid-cooled, 90-degree longitudinal V-twin
Bore x stroke	88 mm x 69 mm
Displacement	839.3 cc
Fuel system	Weber Marelli electronic fuel injection
Ignition	Digital electronic
Transmission	Sequential, with automatic or seven-speed manual mode
Front suspension	43-mm male slider forks
Rear suspension	Single shock, preload, and rebound adjustable
Front brakes	Dual 320-mm discs with radial calipers
Rear brake	Single 260-mm disc
Front tires	120/70 ZR17
Rear tire	180/55 ZR17
Fuel tank	4.2 gallons
Wheelbase	57.6 inches
Seat height	31.5 inches
Dry weight	507 pounds
MSRP	\$9,900

character, and its light weight makes it easy to maneuver in traffic.

Clearly, this is an excellent middleweight motorcycle that is ideal for those seeking a sporty commuter machine. But wait—something's missing. The first thing you notice when you grab the handlebar is that someone has ripped off the clutch lever. Why would someone do such a thing? In this case, Aprilia's engineers did it because it isn't needed. The Mana has a very unique motorcycle transmission called a Sportgear, and this is where the scooter genes are

expressed. You can opt for Autodrive, a three-mode automatic transmission, or a manual sequential tranny with seven speeds. The Autodrive option offers three different electronic maps to tune your ride for the day, including Touring (for maximum versatility and minimum consumption), Sport (for maximum performance), and Rain (perfect when the going gets slippery). The manual option lets you select gears by using the conventional foot lever or a handlebar switch. This is a major advance in motorcycle tech, giving you all kinds of shifting

options without ever having to bother with a clutch. And it even has a handy, concealed parking brake, too.

The other brilliant scooter-like touch involves the fuel tank, which is located lower in the chassis with a filler under the rear seat; the "tank" is actually a spacious, lighted trunk that can swallow a full-face helmet, with a 12-volt socket for your cellphone. Like the transmission, it's the user-friendly engineering from a smaller kind of two-wheeler that makes the Mana a brilliant new hybrid that goes where no street bike has gone before. 

Date Night

Dinner and a movie is the dating equivalent of white bread—bland and boring. Penthouse Pet Jessica Jaymes explains how to spice things up with a sex-themed date that will bring out your woman's wild side.

By Jonathan Ages



"If you go to a strip club, buy your girl a dance. She'll get her alone time and you'll get to enjoy the show."

BREAK THE NICE

"I like to be straight up. Just say, 'Hey, babe, I've planned something for Friday night. We're going on a sex date and we're gonna have some fun.' It doesn't hurt to turn her on before-hand. Coax her a bit by touching her hair and kissing her softly."

STIR IT UP

"Make an aphrodisiac-filled dinner to set the mood. The sexiest part of cooking is probably going to be her ass in an apron—particularly if you cook naked and can just bend her over the countertop and slide it in. But cooking is so much fun, and the experience can be a turn-on in itself. Make a crème brûlée to close out the meal, then enjoy the ultimate dessert—in the bedroom."

GAME ON!

"There are lots of fun, corny games you could play, like strip poker or truth or dare. But my favorite game is actually stored under my bed. It's called Love and Lust. It's a thousand sexually based drinking games. Why not combine the two things we all love the most?"

TOY STORY

"Go to a sex store with her and buy something simple but fun. I have every single sex toy known to man, but my go-to is a small vibrator—'cause I really get off on clitoral stimulation. The other day I picked up a feather. It's a good, kind of kinky, beginner toy."

AND ... SCENE

"If you rent a porno, choose the movie together. Then go home, pop in that fucker, and go crazy! Be careful, though. Watching porn with your girlfriend can be really hot, so you may not make it through the first scene."

GIRL-WATCHING

"If you go to a strip club, go straight to the VIP section. First, find the right dancer and buy your girl a dance. Sit nearby and watch. That way she'll get her alone time and you'll still get to enjoy the show. You'll be rockin' and rollin', and she'll get wet and horny and good to go, too. Later, you can share a dance. And if she's anything like me, she won't be weirded out. She'll be really pleased. It'll be liberating for her. But if your girlfriend is more interested in the stripper than she is in you, you just may end up being the sidekick." 

Male Enhancement Pills . . .

Is it a Hoax or Do They Really Work?

Dr. Daniel Stein, M.D.

I wish I had a dollar for every patient or person that asked me over the last few years about increasing the size of "that certain part of the male body." The preoccupation with size that men have is a mystery to most women. The fact is it is completely normal for most men to want to be larger. It doesn't matter if they are smaller than average, average, or larger than average. It's even been my experience that guys that are almost too big, so big in fact that many women won't go near them with a ten foot pole (sorry about that) still want to be larger!

I was so intrigued by this fact that I started to do research about the "so called" male enhancement pills that came on the market several years ago. The concept that a simple pill could noticeably increase the size of a man's organ seemed plausible, but I wanted to know more. I had done much research over the years about certain sexually enhancing compounds available, so I believed the concept was sound that a pill could be made to make a man larger.

My first task was to look at some of the ads I had seen in magazines for male enhancement. There were some amazing claims by many of these makers. My personal favorite was a cream that claimed to make men instantly larger. I had to laugh out loud when I read what it said. The ad read, "apply cream, rub vigorously, watch it grow." I thought for a minute and then decided you could put virtually anything on a man, including guacamole, and if he rubbed vigorously it would grow. Then there was an ad for a pill, that if taken daily, would increase the length of a man by 3 to 4 inches in just a few short days (sorry about the "short" comment).

I'm sorry, but after all those years of medical school, I know enough about anatomy to know that a guy who is 5 inches in length isn't going to add 3 to 4 inches to his little friend unless he buys a rope, gets a large brick, finds a bridge and...well, you get the picture. At about this time I was beginning to think that perhaps these makers hadn't found the magic mixture of compounds I had hoped they might have.

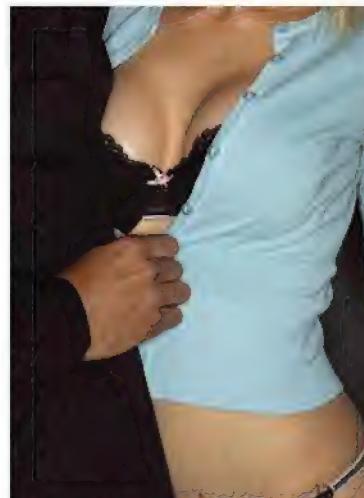
As the founder of both the Stein Medical Institute and the Foundation for Intimacy, I have spent most of my adult life trying to improve men and

"a pill that, if taken daily, would increase the length of a man by 3 to 4 inches."

women's sexual health. I pride myself on being the best medical doctor I can be and my reputation is important to me. So, when out of the clear blue sky, I got a call from the makers of Extenze, the leader in male enhancement, wanting me to be in one of their TV commercials, I thought, "Boy, did they pick the wrong guy!"

Little did they know that I had done real research into this concept and had recently looked at some of these male enhancement products. But the makers of Extenze seemed to be genuinely

convinced that their product really worked, and they claim to have sold over 100 million capsules to men all over the world. "Over 100 million capsules taken by men." With that single declaration, they had my interest. Either Extenze really worked or these guys were the world's greatest snake oil salesmen. So I requested that they send me Extenze formula so I could review it, then we would talk.



I then visited the Extenze.com web site, where I found a page that showed the top twelve adult film stars, all holding Extenze and endorsing it. I thought to myself, "Is it possible Extenze actually works?"

The next day I received the proprietary Extenze formula and there it was, virtually all of the ingredients that I hoped would be in a male enhancement product, 19 pharmaceutical grade nutraceuticals. There was Yohimbe (which used to be available by prescription only,) L-Arginine, Maca...all of it was there.



I contacted the makers of Extenze the very next day and asked them what they needed me for. They explained that they had a desire to have a medical doctor in their T.V. commercials to talk about the effectiveness of the ingredients in Extenze. At that moment an idea sprang into my head. I told them if they would let me improve the formula of Extenze, I would do the commercial for free!

Before I knew it I was working with their

"they claim to have sold almost a quarter of a billion capsules to men."

chemists at the manufacturing plant where we added the most revolutionary thing to the formula of Extenze. We added DHEA, also known as the "mother of all hormones." DHEA is the most important human prohormone and is the prohormone that converts into testosterone in men. DHEA levels decrease with the aging. Production peaks in a man's early 20's, and declines about 10% every 10 years. Low levels of testosterone can lead to low sex drive and a smaller sex organ.

After a few more weeks of tweaking the formula of Extenze, we were done. The new Extenze formula has been selling even better than the old formula, with over 75% of sales to repeat customers. Extenze has been on the market for 7 years and has sold almost a quarter of a billion capsules to men all over the world. It doesn't matter if you're 18 or 80 years old. In my opinion Extenze can make you larger, harder and increase both your intensity and pleasure and it is as simple as taking a single tablet daily. Extenze is so sure it would work for anyone that they're sending out a free one-week supply of Extenze for nothing more than the cost of a postage stamp. You can contact them directly at 800-630-3931. I recommend any man healthy enough to engage in sexual activity should try Extenze. You have nothing to lose but a lot to gain.

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Gins can be very different, so buy a few small bottles and identify your favorite. Then buy a gallon.

WHAT

Robust and pungent and unmistakably alcoholic, gin is full of muscle. Its piercing flavor means gin is rarely drunk neat, except by very heavy gin drinkers with honorary bar stools in one or more local taverns. (Heavy gin drinkers can also be identified by swollen red noses.) Instead, gin is the preferred spirit behind some of the most iconic cocktails we have, including the undisputed emperor of cocktails, the classic martini.

Gin is made by mixing a neutral spirit (flavorless fermented grain, usually corn or barley but sometimes wheat, rye, or sugarcane) with botanical-based flavors (always juniper berries, but also lemon, orange, anise, coriander, and other stuff), then distilling the mixture to remove impurities and excess water. Some manufacturers further flavor their gin with botanical essences.

Gin's character comes from its high alcohol content (usually around 100 proof, or 50 percent alcohol) and the stuff that's added to it. Gins from different manufacturers can be very different from one another, so buy a few small bottles and identify your favorite. Then buy a gallon.

WHY

Most gin drinks go sweet somewhere along the way, but a negroni is bitter, puckering, and totally addictive. This Italian take on gin was invented as an aperitif to stimulate the appetite before a gargantuan meal. But I think it's at its best outdoors, in the afternoon. Wear sunglasses and throw attitude while you sip.

Tip: Chill your ingredients for an hour before mixing for a less-diluted negroni.

HOW

Ingredients (makes one classy drink)
1½ ounces gin
1 ounce Campari
½ ounce sweet vermouth

Fill bar glass or shaker base halfway with ice cubes. Add gin, Campari, and vermouth. Stir gently for 30 seconds. Strain gin mixture into cocktail glass. Garnish with orange twist and sip.

MIX IT UP

Negroni rocks: Use highball glass. Fill glass halfway with ice, add garnish, and strain mixture over the top.
Licorice negroni: Substitute Pernod or pastis for the Campari.

Gin Teacher

Today's lesson: The negroni was invented as an aperitif to stimulate the appetite before a gargantuan Italian meal. We think that makes it perfect preholiday fare.

By Tucker Shaw • Photograph by Nicholas Eveleigh

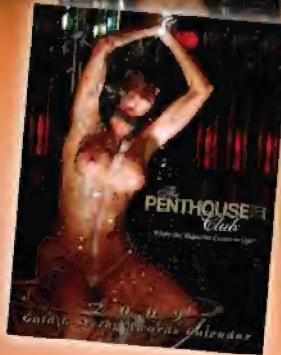
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THE PENTHOUSE TOP 40

40 steps to great sex

Staying happy, horny, and healthy is the best prescription for an optimum love life.

By Victoria Zdrok, Ph.D.

1 Hit the gym. Physical exercise boosts levels of endorphins, the feel-good hormones, as well as testosterone, the hormone responsible for sexual desire and performance. Aim for at least 30 minutes of exercise three times per week.

2 Give your love muscle a workout. Pelvic exercises, also known as kegels, improve ejaculatory control in men and enhance orgasms in men and women. Start by locating your PC muscle, which you use to stop and start the flow of urine. Then just squeeze as hard as you can and hold for three to five seconds, release, and relax for five seconds. This will have the most impact if you do a dozen or more repetitions three or four times a day.

3 Get some rays. Moderate sun exposure puts you in the mood for sex by causing your body to release the pleasure endorphins as well as the sex-drive hormone testosterone.

4 Be a flirt. Whether you're looking to meet women or are in a long-term relationship, flirting will undoubtedly enhance your sex life. Give her suggestive compliments, casually touch her when you walk by, and give her long sultry looks. Flirting stimulates your sexual desires—and hers, too!

5 Try something new. Alter something about yourself from time to time, whether it's how you dress or how you trim your beard, and vary your sexual script by trying new sexual positions and places and exploring new sexual techniques.

6 Enjoy erotica. When used in moderation, porn definitely enhances your sex life. But don't bring out your collection the minute you get her in your bedroom. Many women are not turned on by stereotypical male-oriented porn. She might prefer reading explicit romance novels together, or listening to erotic audio CDs, or watching couple-oriented porn.

7 Create the mood. Eroticize your bedroom by putting in dimmer lights and investing in a nice, noncreaky mattress, satin sheets, lots of pillows and mirrors. Consider getting some useful props, such as the Liberator pillows. Turn off all electronic devices. Nothing kills the mood quicker than the sound of your alarm clock or, worse, your mother calling.

8 Talk to her. Communication is critical for healthy sexual intimacy. Listen to her sexual desires and tell her about yours. Engage in some *active listening*—as annoying as it sounds. The payback will be great sex!



9 Make sex a priority. Set a sex date, if necessary, because in our crazy-busy schedules, sex often gets put on a back burner. But also be spontaneous about sexual opportunities when they arise. Ask her to join you in the shower. Occasionally skip work or school and take a day-long sexcapade!

10 Use good scents. Certain aromas stimulate sexual desire. Essential oils, such as patchouli, sandalwood, ylang-ylang, vetiver, cinnamon, and vanilla, can increase sexual stimulation in men and women. And don't be afraid to work up a little sweat, too. The pheromones in male perspiration stimulate sexual desire in women.

11 Avoid sexual downers. Aspartame (found in many diet foods and soft drinks), caffeine, and alcohol are vasoconstrictors. This means they work against blood flow, including in the genitals. Keep away from such rich foods as turkey, which will turn you into a lazy potato sack. Other common substances that may diminish sexual performance in men: aspirin; antihistamines; over-the-counter cold, allergy, or sinus medicines; potassium nitrate; lemon juice; and vinegar.

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THE PENTHOUSE TOP 40

12 Enjoy foods that boost sexual desire. Honey provides high sustained energy and peanuts increase testosterone levels; they can also be considered aphrodisiacs. Enjoy a peanut-butter sandwich with some tea and honey! Because energy is important for good sex, eat high-protein foods, such as fish, chicken, low-fat dairy products, and beans.

13 Take your vitamins. There are natural nutrients your body needs for optimal sexual performance, such as omega-3s in conjunction with an Ester-C supplement, zinc, and vitamin D. These nutrients can aid circulation and overall wellness, leading to better sex. Vitamin E increases oxygen in your system. Your multivitamin also should contain iodine, SOD, selenium, RNA/DNA, manganese, bromelain, L-cysteine, choline, and inositol. Consult a doctor to determine your optimal dosage.

14 Review your options. If you feel bored or turned off by sex, try sublimating your sexual energy by taking up a new hobby or finding a new passion in life. Or it may be time to make changes—whether it's finding a more suitable partner, starting an exercise routine, or seeing your physician, shrink, or sex coach.

15 Get touchy-feely. Physical touch is an immense turn-on for both of you. Hug her until she gets totally relaxed in your arms. Let her break contact. Give each other sensual massages.

16 Lose the TV. Studies have shown that couples who have a TV in the bedroom have half the amount of sex as couples who don't. Disconnect the cable and use the DVD player to watch erotica—preferably one you made with your honey.

17 Go green. There are numerous herbs and natural remedies that have been found to enhance libido, such as yohimbe bark, arugula, tribulus, damiana, ginseng, ginkgo biloba, kelp, balut, Borojo, maca, and, of course, horny goat weed. But since different people may have different reactions, don't ingest any of these before you check with your doctor.

18 Don't get smashed. While a small amount of alcohol has a positive effect on arousal, as drinking increases men may have difficulty getting erections, and both men and women may have difficulty experiencing orgasm. Not to mention that while intoxicated you may end up having the sort of sex (read: unprotected) you will regret!

19 Become a sexual explorer. Have you always dreamed of having sex in a convertible, trying a threesome, or getting anal stimulation? Drop any embarrassment you may have about the fantasy and share it with her—it will encourage her to open up as well, and maybe even to try it out.

20 Love yourself. Masturbation is one of the best things for your mental and physical health. Pleasure yourself during



sexual dry spells, because sexual prowess is akin to foreign language—if you don't use it, you lose it. Practice delaying orgasm by peaking and then allowing your erection to subside, which will allow you to last as long as you want during intercourse. Show your honey how you play with yourself—it will give her fresh new ideas on how to please you better.

21 Take a walk on the wild side. Try some bondage and discipline by tying her up and giving her a good spanking (then switching roles), or some domination and submission by having her give you orders on how best to sexually please her. Encourage her to go commando, and play with her discreetly in a restaurant or movie theater.

22 Get your heart racing. Research has shown that our brain does not discriminate fully between the adrenaline rush evoked by lust and that evoked by fear. Hit the roller coasters, go bungee jumping, or watch a scary movie together.

23 Groove to the music. Dance is a major libido booster. Go clubbing, or take ballroom-dancing classes together. Encourage her to take belly-dancing, stripping, or pole-dancing classes. If you're unattached, use dance lessons to meet women.

24 Get an annual checkup. High blood pressure, diabetes, thyroid problems, and other conditions can contribute to libido blues; so can their treatments. Discuss drug side effects with your doctors and request an alternative with minimal libido-lowering effects whenever possible.

25 Just say no. Marijuana and opiates may appear to increase libido, but they actually deaden nerve endings, decreasing our ability to get turned on and to feel orgasm in the long run. Take your pick—get stoned or get turned on!

26 Rest. Sleep deprivation is associated with lower libido, as well as with weight gain, irritability, and difficulty focusing. If you find yourself passing out into a deep sleep the moment you

A photograph showing a man wearing a wide-brimmed black hat and a dark jacket. He is sitting on a bed with patterned pillows, looking down at a tiger lying beside him. In the background, there's a statue of a person on a horse and some architectural details.

40

Role-playing is a sure way to spice up your sex life. If you're really adventuresome, let her play the male role!

get her to bed, cut down on the java, skip the late show, and get enough much-needed rest to have the stamina of a warhorse.

27 Make yourself tasty. What you eat can influence the taste and smell of your semen and even your sweat. In general, dairy products create the foulest-tasting fluids, while meat and fish produce a fishlike taste. Garlic, onions, cabbage, broccoli, asparagus, and cauliflower make your semen taste bitter. To make your semen finger-licking good, drink lots of water and eat lots of fruit (such as pineapple, watermelon, papaya, and mango), as well as such vegetables as tomatoes, carrots, and cucumbers.

28 Drop that excess baggage. Being too heavy, especially around the midsection, will decrease libido due to hormonal imbalances (fat stores estrogen, which reduces libido in men). Losing weight will also give you more confidence and allow you to try out new sexual positions. And remember, for every inch of stomach fat you lose, your penis will appear more prominent—the easiest way to achieve a bigger dick.

29 Relax! Stress is one of the biggest libido killers. Find a calm place, close your eyes, banish all thoughts, and repeat a mantra word, such as *om*. Visualize a peaceful place, such as a beach, or imagine yourself floating on a cloud. Then tense and release each one of your muscles, starting with your toes and ending with your face. Repeat the process until you feel like a yoga master—ready to take your lover on a tantric journey.

30 Breathe deeply. Put one hand on your chest and one on your stomach, then slowly inhale through your nose or through pursed lips to slow down the intake of breath. As you inhale, your stomach should expand. If your chest expands, focus on breathing with your diaphragm. Slowly exhale through pursed lips to regulate the release of air.

31 Look on the bright side. Optimists have better, more satisfying sex lives, so banish the habit of seeing the negative side of things. Don't internalize failures. For example, if you go soft during intercourse, don't think you're an impotent loser. Instead, realize that it happened because you were tired.

32 Have a play-date. They're called sex toys for a reason: They add playfulness and excitement to your life. They can also relieve performance anxiety by giving her multiple orgasms before you climax. Try toys for her, such as dildos and vibrators, and ones for you, such as cock rings and masturbators. Vibrating cock rings can deliver mutual pleasure, as can double-sided strap-ons (don't knock 'em till you try 'em).

33 Kiss off! Kissing has numerous benefits, from increasing saliva production, which improves your oral health, to turning on you and your partner. Most women believe that if a guy cannot kiss, he cannot screw, so learn to be a master kisser. Start soft and don't ignore her face and body. For many women, kisses on the back of her neck, behind her ears, on her shoulders, or even on her eyes can be as big a turn-on as a lip-smacking smooch.

34 See the dentist. Poor dental health, such as gum disease, is correlated with erectile dysfunction. Bacteria produced by gum disease can damage your cardiovascular system as well as your overall health and blood circulation.

35 Check into a hot-sheet hotel. Get away from it all and pretend that you have just picked her up (or hired her services)—a great way to include a little role-play.

36 Talk dirty. Or send dirty text messages. Leave her a phone message describing what you will do to her when she gets home, or send her a quick, lusty IM. Phone sex is great foreplay.

37 Explore her body. Look for hidden hot spots, or moan zones, such as the line between her pelvic bones, or at the bottom of her buttock, or that ticklish spot behind her knee. Some people can orgasm from nipple stimulation, and a few even come from ear touching! Try dry humping, interfemoral (closed-thighs) sex, intermammary (boob) sex, or even armpit sex.

38 Go tantric. Assume such intercourse positions as side-by-side spoon to allow you to go for slow, leisurely lovemaking. Try the sweet torment of the tease, otherwise known as orgasm denial, as some sexual frustration enhances orgasm. Bring yourself and her close to orgasm and then back off, allowing for the buildup of sexual tension. Keep doing that as long as possible, winding up that spring of desire until it is ready to explode.

39 Don't skip the afterplay. Orgasm triggers the release of oxytocin, the "warm and cuddly" hormone that enhances closeness and intimacy. Take advantage of this oxytocin high by cuddling during those postorgasmic moments. For a woman, a good cuddle after sex really improves her satisfaction—and that will inevitably lead to her wanting more sex.



summers love

In October 2007, we introduced you to a stunning 25-year-old blonde named Sandy Summers, then found ourselves inundated with requests for a repeat performance. Thus, without further ado, the lovely lady herself, dressed (and undressed) for the occasion.

Photographs by Misha





"My favorite thing about modeling is getting naked, and I'm very happy to be able to give *Penthouse* readers a demonstration of just how much I enjoy it."





"My dream vacation would be a trip to Hawaii's beautiful beaches. My favorite sexual experience ever was on a beach, so I have happy, horny memories every time I sunbathe."





"If I'm dating someone new,
there's no timeline on how soon
we should have sex, and I never
wait just to keep him waiting.
When the time is right, I know,
and then he knows!"









"I'm still fantasizing about having
a threesome with a guy and
another girl ... or maybe I've made
that fantasy a reality. Wouldn't
you like to know for sure?"

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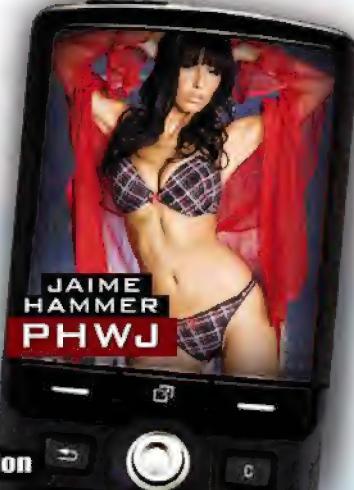
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WALLPAPERS

Andie Valentino PHW1	Jana Jordan PHW2	Cassia Riley PHW3	Jennifer Emerson PHW4
Suzanna Birch PHW5	Tyler Faith PHW6	Hanna Hilton PHW7	Jaime Hammer PHW8

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BREE
OLSON
PHW9

SCREENSAVERS

Hanna Hilton



PHS1

Shay Laren



PHS2

Jamie Lynn



PHS3

Heather Vandeven



PHS4

Andie Valentino



PHS5

Kimberly Williams



PHS6

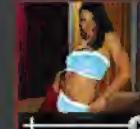
VIDEOS

Tyler Faith



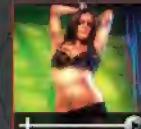
PHV1

Krista Ayne



PHV2

Mikayla



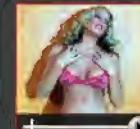
PHV3

Zdenka Podkapova



PHV4

Nicole Sheridan



PHV5

Gianna Lynn



PHV6

Suzene



PHV7

Montana Bay



PHV8

Gabi



PHV9

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PHG4

RINGTONES

ANSWER THAT B*TCH

PHR1

HEY BABY

PHR2

BOW CHICA WOW WOW

PHR3

NAUGHTY SPANK

PHR4

LOOKING FOR D*CK

PHR5

MILE HIGH CLUB

PHR6

YOU WIN A BJ!

PHR7

HEY BIG BOY

PHR8

G SPOT

PHR9

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Gametime: 2008-09 NHL Preview

Smilin' Like a Butcher's Dog

Licking our chops in anticipation, we preview some contenders and pretenders for the 2008-09 NHL season, with a little help from legendary Pittsburgh Penguins play-by-play man Mike Lange—he of the weird, wonderful catchphrases.

LANGEISM: "Michael, Michael, motorcycle!"

TEAM: Boston Bruins

Why it fits: Pardon us while we channel ESPN's Chris "You're With Me, Leather" Berman: Michael "Motorcycle" Ryder was a risky acquisition for the B's, and which way the winger from Newfoundland rolls will go a long way toward determining Boston's fate: Will Ryder, who signed a pricey, three-year, \$12-million deal, be the 30-goal contributor of 2006-07, or the 14-goal dud of last season? The Bruins scrapped their way into the playoffs last year and nearly knocked off Ryder's old team, Montreal, in the first round. Look for even more in 2008-09. And yes, we have no idea what Lange means by this catchphrase, either, but it somehow sounds right after a Pens' goal.

LANGEISM: "You can split-shine your shoes, 'cause the Pens are going dancing with Lord Stanley!"

TEAM: Pittsburgh Penguins

Why it fits: Because the Penguins will return to the Stanley Cup finals, and this time they will skate off with the fabled trophy. Sure, they lost Marian Hossa, to Detroit no less, but they added former Islanders forwards Ruslan Fedotenko and Miroslav Satan, who will no doubt be energized by the move from a wildly dysfunctional franchise to a bona fide Stanley Cup contender. Pittsburgh also locked up All-Star forward Evgeni Malkin for five years and goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury for seven. Plus, they have Sid the Kid Crosby, of course.

LANGEISM: "I've seen that fish before!"

TEAM: New York Rangers

Why it fits: They were still in the hunt for Mats Sundin at press time, but the Rangers' major off-season acquisitions to that point—35-year-old forward Markus Naslund, whose numbers have declined in each of the past three seasons, and 31-year-old former Ottawa defenseman Wade Redden—smacked of previous Rangers moves that brought in good players who were a bit past their prime and couldn't get the team over the title hump (Bobby Holik, Sandis Ozolinsh). This year's Rangers will be a lot like last year's: competitive and postseason-bound, but not championship caliber.

LANGEISM: "Never teach a pig to sing!"

TEAM: New York Islanders

Why it fits: Like many Langeisms, this one is pretty hard to parse, but we're tagging the Islanders with it because, well, their inner workings are pretty hard to figure out—and pigs will sing (or fly) before the Isles win the Cup this year. They dismissed coach Ted Nolan—for what, squeezing the maximum out of his minimally talented roster for two seasons?—and replaced him with former AHL man Scott Gordon, making Gordon the Isles' seventh coach since 2000. They also overpaid for Swiss defenseman Mark Streit (five years, \$20.5 million), and replaced departed forwards Miroslav Satan and Ruslan Fedotenko with Doug Weight—who will turn 38 in January.

LANGEISM: "Hop in the Cordoba, baby, we're going bowling!"

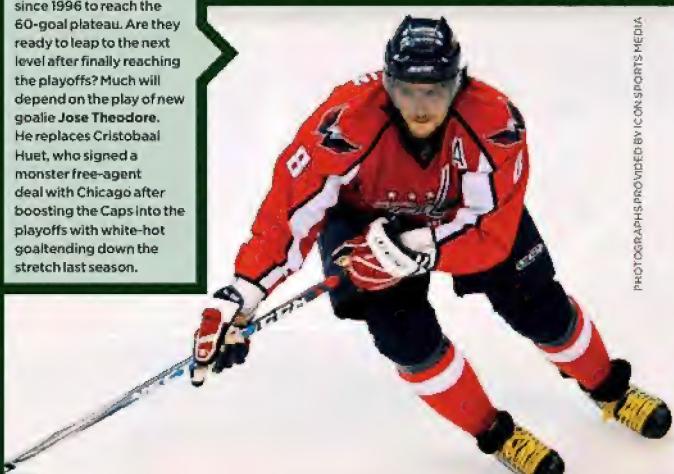
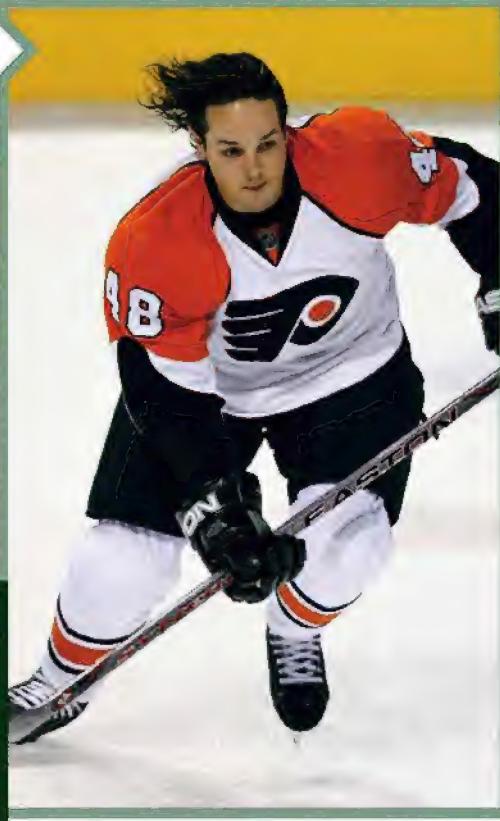
TEAM: Philadelphia Flyers

Why it fits: After vaulting from dead last in 2006-07 to the Eastern Conference finals last year, the Flyers must be fired up for 2008-09. They didn't add any blockbuster signings—they'd already done that the year before with Daniel Briere (right) and Kimmo Timonen—but will welcome rugged wing Arron Asham and center Glenn Metropolit, who produced a career-high 33 points for Boston last year. Center Mike Richards will look to build on his breakout season of 2007-08, when he more than doubled his production of the previous year (from 32 to 75 points).

LANGEISM: "He put it in the top shelf, where Grandma keeps the cookies!"

TEAM: Washington Capitals

Why it fits: The Caps have the league's leading scorer in Alexander Ovechkin (right), who hit the net 65 times last year to become the first player since 1996 to reach the 60-goal plateau. Are they ready to leap to the next level after finally reaching the playoffs? Much will depend on the play of new goalie Jose Theodore. He replaces Cristobal Huet, who signed a monster free-agent deal with Chicago after boosting the Caps into the playoffs with white-hot goaltending down the stretch last season.



PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED BY ICON SPORTS MEDIA



LANGEISM: "I'll be cow-kicked!"

TEAM: Dallas Stars

Why it fits: Stars opponents are likely to be cow-kicked, clutched, grabbed, poked, elbowed, punched, taunted, and otherwise harassed by Dallas's new signee Sean Avery (left), late of the New York Rangers, who were 33-14-10 with him in the lineup last season compared with 9-13-3 without him. Avery is the league's premier agitator, the kind of guy you hate to play against but love to have on your team, and he can provide offense too: He had 33 points in 57 games for New York last season. In Dallas, he'll join a team that boasts Brenden Morrow (32 goals last year) and Mike Ribeiro (83 points) and reached the 2008 Western Conference finals. Avery could be the key to getting back there—and beyond.



LANGEISM: "Buy Ken a drink and get his dog one too!"

TEAM: Detroit Red Wings

Why it fits: The Langeism is actually "Buy Sam a drink..." but we're retrofitting it to Detroit's top-shelf general manager, Ken Holland, who, after the Wings hoisted the Stanley Cup, went out and acquired the No. 1 forward on the free-agent market, Marlan Hossa (left, with Atlanta), along with quality backup goalie Ty Conklin—without losing any significant pieces of the championship puzzle. With Hossa joining Henrik Zetterberg (43 goals last year), Pavel Datsyuk (97 points), and defensemen Nicklas Lidstrom and Brian Rafalski, Detroit is poised to be the toast of the NHL once again.

LANGEISM: "Donna needs a donut!"

TEAM: San Jose Sharks

Why it fits: The Sharks have been eliminated in the second round of the playoffs in each of the past three years, so they definitely need something to get them over that hump. If not a tasty baked good, how about new blueliners Dan Boyle and Rob Blake? At 32 and 38, respectively, they make the Sharks older, yes, but also better. If 2005-06 MVP center Joe Thornton can find a way to make an impact in big games, this will be the year San Jose goes deeper into the postseason. But longtime Sharks fans are not holding their breath.

LANGEISM: "Never sit on a bald man's hat!"

TEAM: Chicago Blackhawks

Why it fits: Follically challenged NHL legend Scotty Bowman—he of the 11 Stanley Cup rings—left his advisory post in Detroit to become senior advisor of hockey operations in Chicago, where he'll join his son Stan, a Blackhawks' assistant GM. Bowman brings his wealth of knowledge and experience to a franchise that's rebounding nicely from tough times. The Hawks—owners of the best uniforms in sport, bar none—have not won a playoff series since 1996, but they produced a winning record last season and narrowly missed the playoffs. After signing goalie Cristobal Huet and former San Jose defenseman Brian Campbell to join a solid core including promising youngsters Patrick Kane, 19, and Jonathan Toews, 20, Chicago looks ready to break its postseason drought.

Gametime

Penthouse Top 5

BACKUP QUARTERBACKS

There was a time when NFL teams carried backup quarterbacks who were not just clipboard-holders trying to soak up experience from the sideline—they were seasoned, capable veterans who could, and frequently did, step in and lead their teams. Indeed, before the salary cap and free-agent era essentially eliminated them from the NFL budget, quality backups were a luxury most teams afforded, and they were used almost like relief pitchers in baseball: The starter is struggling? Throw in the backup, see if he can move the chains. As former backup Aaron Rodgers tries to fill some big starter's shoes in Green Bay, we look back at the best relief signal callers in NFL history. (Years as backup listed.)

**5**

GEORGE BLANDA
Oakland Raiders
1967–70

Blanda played a record 26 seasons of pro football, ten of them in the AFL, in which he quarterbacked the Houston Oilers to the first two league titles (1960, 61). He was also a kicker. He signed with the Raiders in 1967, and three years later, at age 43, produced a string of clutch performances, kicking and passing Oakland to a five-game unbeaten streak. Blanda played five more years and made the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1981.

JEFF HOSTETLER
New York Giants
1985–91

Taking over for an injured Phil Simms on December 15, 1990, Hostetler, who had thrown only 109 NFL passes to that point, led the Giants to wins in their final two regular-season games and into Super Bowl XXV, where they edged the Bills 20–19. He won the starting job the following season.

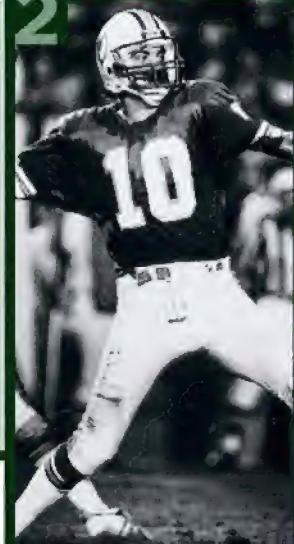
4**3**

FRANK REICH
Buffalo Bills
1985–94

Reich engineered the greatest comeback in NFL history, coming off the bench and rallying Buffalo from a 35–3 third-quarter deficit to a 41–38 overtime victory over Houston in the 1992 playoffs. As understudy to Hall of Famer Jim Kelly, Reich was never going to be the starter, but he almost always delivered when called upon, including in late 1990 when he helped clinch the AFC East and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs by leading Buffalo to two key victories.

DON STOCK
Miami Dolphins
1974–87

Stock led the greatest near-comeback in NFL history, relieving David Woodley in the second quarter of a 1982 playoff game against San Diego, with Miami trailing 24–0. He immediately sparked a rally, completing the famous "hook and lateral" play for a TD with six seconds left in the half to make the score 24–17. After an epic second half and overtime, San Diego won 41–38, but Stock had plenty of other highlights backing up Bob Griese, Woodley, and Dan Marino.

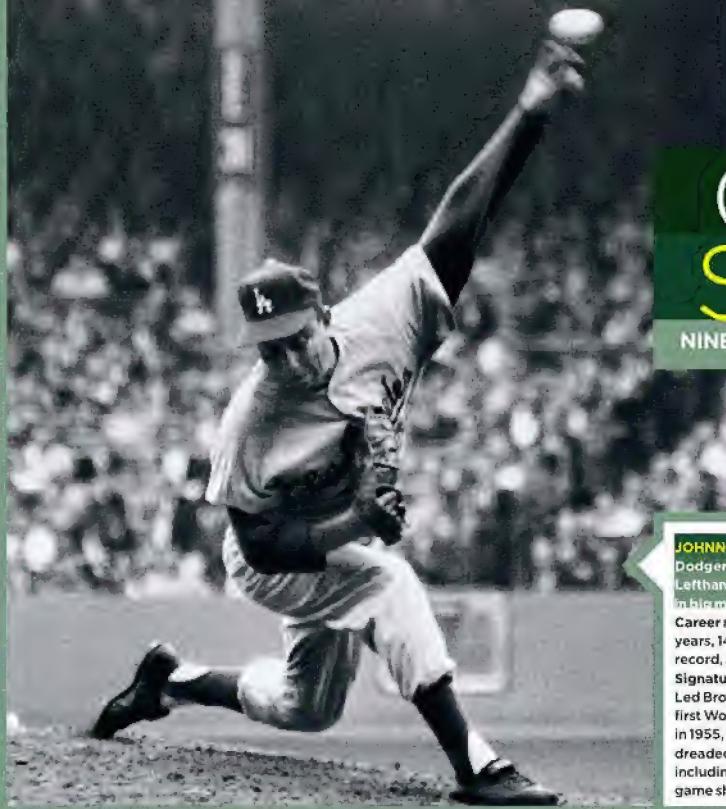
2

EARL MORRALL
Baltimore Colts
Miami Dolphins
1968–71
1972–76

Imagine if Tom Brady had gone down with an injury at any point during New England's undefeated regular-season run last year. Perfect season over, right? During Miami's unbeaten season of 1972, future Hall of Famer Bob Griese got hurt in the fifth game of the year. Morrall stepped in and the Phins didn't miss a beat, going 14–0. He eventually gave way to Griese in the AFC title game, and the Dolphins won that and Super Bowl VII to go 17–0. In 1968, Morrall had filled in for another injured Hall of Famer, Johnny Unitas, leading Baltimore to a 13–1 record, two playoff wins and a Super Bowl III berth.

October Surprises

NINE PLAYERS WHO SEIZED CENTER STAGE IN THE WORLD SERIES



GENE TENACE

A's, catcher
Unassuming presence on swash-buckling Oakland team of the 1970s
Career numbers: 15 years, .241 batting average, 201 HR, 653 RBI
Signature moment: After hitting .225 with five homers during the season, exploded for four more, nine RBI, and a .348 average in the 1972 Series, leading Oakland to a seven-game win over Cincinnati.



BRIAN DOYLE

Yankees, second baseman
Little-used, light-hitting backup
Career numbers: 4 years, .161 BA, 1 HR, 13 RBI
Signature moment: Filling in for an injured Willie Randolph, Doyle, who'd appeared in 39 games during the season and hit .192, went 7 for 17 in the 1978 Series to help New York beat Los Angeles in six games.

DARRELL PORTER

Cardinals, catcher
Intense, bespectacled, and troubled—he died of a cocaine overdose in 1997
Career numbers: 17 years, .247 BA, 188 HR, 826 RBI
Signature moment: After hitting just .231 during the season, took the 1982 World Series MVP award with eight hits and five clutch RBI in St. Louis's seven-game win over Milwaukee.

PAT BORDERS

Blue Jays, catcher
Down-to-earth backstop from Lutz, Florida
Career numbers: 17 years, .253 BA, 69 HR, 346 RBI
Signature moment: Hit .450 with a home run and three RBI in the 1992 Fall Classic, while his teammates hit .210 collectively. MVP of the Series, as Toronto beat Atlanta in six games.

JOHNNY PODRES

Dodgers, pitcher
Lefty, at his best in big moments
Career numbers: 15 years, 148-116 win-loss record, 3.68 ERA
Signature moment: Led Brooklyn to its first World Series title, in 1955, beating the dreaded Yankees twice, including a complete-game shutout in Game 7.

LARRY SHERRY

Dodgers, relief pitcher
Overcame club feet as an infant to reach milestones
Career numbers: 11 years, 53-44 W-L, 3.67 ERA, 606 strikeouts
Signature moment: Closed all four Dodgers victories over the White Sox in the 1959 World Series, with a 0.71 ERA in $12\frac{2}{3}$ innings.

RICK DEMPSEY

Orioles, catcher
Flaky personality but solid defensive player
Career numbers: 24 years, .233 BA, 96 HR, 471 RBI
Signature moment: Hit .385 with four doubles in 1983 Series win over Philadelphia to win the MVP award.

MICKEY HATCHER

Dodgers, utilityman
Wildly enthusiastic— sprinted full speed around the bases after his Game 7 homer in the 1983 Series
Career numbers: 12 years, .280 BA, 38 HR, 375 RBI
Signature moment: Hit .368 with two homers and five RBI in Dodgers' 1988 World Series triumph over Oakland.

Screen Saviors

Ah, fall: the changing colors of the leaves, brisk winds carrying sweater weather eastward, and more new awesome videogames than you can possibly imagine.

Our pixelated preview makes sense of the madness.

By Rebecca Swanner

Sequel Central

Who says the second, or third, or tenth addition to a franchise isn't as good as the original?



FALLOUT 3

Bethesda (Xbox 360, PS3, PC)

Of all the titles coming this season, *Fallout 3* is the one we're most looking forward to. The role-playing game takes the franchise in a new direction from the last core release ten years ago, mostly by featuring way more action. After you customize your character and leave Vault 101 in search of your father, you'll interact with angry civilians, traverse the vast postapocalyptic world, and learn how to fight using the targeted system (because just trying to shoot enemies using your sniper skills has wretched results).

Good to Know: Though little has been said on the game's length, keep in mind that it was developed by the same folks who brought you the rich role-playing game *Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion*.



SAINTS ROW 2

THQ (Xbox 360, PS3, PC)

In this sandbox game packed with gangs and guns, your customized member of the Saints has just emerged from a long coma and is out for revenge against the gang who attempted to knock him off. You'll be able to use human shields and control vehicles in the open world with the PS3's Sixaxis.

Good to Know: The co-op mode lets you wreak havoc on the city with the help of a friend.



BIOSHOCK 2

2K (Xbox 360, PS3, PC)

This year, PS3 owners can try to survive the underwater world of Rapture, where surgically enhanced Splicers and armored Big Daddies roam. Guns and plasmids, which let you shoot fire, ice, and other deadly elements from your hands, should help you do just that.

Good to Know: The trophies and downloadable content for the PS3 are different from—and expand on—those for the Xbox 360.



MOTORSTORM: PACIFIC RIFT

Sony (PS3)

MotorStorm was the first game that showed the PS3's graphic capabilities to their best advantage. Here, the revved-up racing action takes place on a tropical island filled with lava pools and thick vegetation that will be trouble for your tires.

Good to Know: The racing title supports split-screen multiplayer and the ability to squash your opponents with monster trucks.



CASTLEVANIA: ORDER OF ECCLESIA

Konami (DS)

After two successful releases—*Portrait of Ruin* and *Dawn of Sorrow*—the franchise is ready for a third go-round as a 2-D platformer. This story follows Shanoa, a magician who can absorb glyphs that enable her to cast different spells and attacks.

Good to Know: We finally get to leave the main castle and go for a nice little stroll outside... on our way to another castle.



TOMB RAIDER: UNDERWORLD

Eidos (Xbox 360, PS3, PC, Wii, DS)

In the first *TR* game built specifically for next-gen systems, Lara Croft is on the hunt to retrieve Thor's hammer before it falls into the wrong hands and civilization gets destroyed. Her improved grappling hook, digital camera, sticky grenades, and tranquilizer darts will help.

Good to Know: Thanks to gameplay improvements and Croft's scuba gear, you glide gracefully through the water instead of careening like a buffalo.



FAR CRY 2

Ubisoft (Xbox 360, PS3, PC)

You're a mercenary who has to stop a civil war in Africa by assassinating an arms dealer. You get a choice of characters, and the ones you don't select become your allies. Once they die, they're gone for good and you're on your own. Your character is the only one that can respawn. **Good to Know:** The world is sprawling, allowing for long adventures, but you've got excellent maps.

PRINCE OF PERSIA

Ubisoft (Xbox 360, PS3, PC)

This action-adventure game has gotten a visual makeover, with graphics that resemble 3-D concept art. As usual, you have to harness the prince's hardcore acrobatic skills as you move through the nonlinear world, but this time your purpose is to strip it of its darkness.

Good to Know: Your partner Elka will help you and catch your clumsy ass if you don't nail a jump.



WORLD OF WARCRAFT: WRATH OF THE LICH KING

Blizzard (PC, Mac)

This second expansion to the WoW universe will keep you entertained with a raised level cap, the new continent of Northrend to explore, and umpteen new spells, weapons, and collectibles. It feels good to be a pack rat.

Good to Know: Finally, Warcraft has added the Hero class of the death knight, and he'll be open to players who are above level 55.

MORTAL KOMBAT VS. DC UNIVERSE

Midway (Xbox 360, PS3)

This new edition of *Mortal Kombat* stars such classic franchise characters as Sub-Zero opposite DC Comics' heroes and villains. You can use Superman's flying skills, Catwoman's whip, or Batman's gadgets in the all-new, vertically enhanced fighting arenas.

Good to Know: Since many of the DC peeps don't kill their enemies, the game doesn't have actual fatalities, but it does have *brutalities*.



NBA LIVE 09

EA (Xbox 360, PS3, PS2, Wii, PSP)

The game updates players' stats daily, impacting how they move and react, and puts them on the disabled list (or the opposing team) when real life calls for it. Other improvements include enhanced two-man-game features and the ability to maneuver around more easily.

Good to Know: Create your own reel and make your personal ESPN highlight show.



NBA 2K9

2K (Xbox 360, PS3, PS2)

Instead of relying on the characteristics of the real players, 2K9 lets you make adjustments to a player's personality, ambition, and role on the team to suit your mood. True five-on-five online play means each man is controlled by a different gamer.

Good to Know: The new "Shot Stick" mechanic makes it possible to adjust your shot in midair, improving your percentages.



Shoot 'Em Up

Last fall, we experienced the excellent bloodbaths known as *Halo 3*, *BioShock*, and *Call of Duty 4*. Here's a quick rundown of this year's most compelling shooters.

WARTIME COMBAT



CALL OF DUTY: WORLD AT WAR

Activision (Xbox 360, PS3, PC, Wii, DS)

Despite the success of *COD: Modern Combat*, it's back to World War II; you play an American soldier battling the Japanese on a lone island in the Pacific, and a Russian soldier fighting the powerful German army.

Good to Know: Bullets blast through wooden objects and a flamethrower has been added to your arsenal.



COMMAND AND CONQUER: RED ALERT 3

EA (Xbox 360, PC)

The story goes that the Soviet Union developed a time machine, assassinated Albert Einstein, and World War II never happened. As a result, the communist state became the world's biggest superpower. It's your job to take it down.

Good to Know: Since the game's not based in reality, they can get away with all kinds of weaponry, including using electrocute Tesla coils, armored bears, and stealthy dolphins.



The Decider: *COD* has gritty real-world battles (and Kiefer Sutherland narration), but *C&C* offers kick-ass sci-fi-based weaponry and sexy ladies. We'll be taking turns between them.

HORRORSHOW



SILENT HILL: HOMECOMING

Konami (Xbox 360, PS3)

You play Alex Shepherd, who's lost his brother. With few clues to go on, Alex searches for his brother in the lovely little town known as Silent Hill. You don't need to see the creepy little kids that dart across the screen to know his search isn't going to end well.

Good to Know: The iconic characters are back, along with the freaky nurses and some gross, oversize bugs.



LEFT 4 DEAD

Valve/EA (Xbox 360, PC)

This offers intense co-op multiplayer combat as you plow through hordes of hungry zombies. Thankfully, you've got an assload of ammo, so as long as you stick with the group, you should live. Just keep your finger on the trigger.

Good to Know: This is nothing like standing around waiting to pick off cans at an arcade game. There are thousands of zombies, and your only route to survival is to hone your squad skills.



DEAD SPACE

EA (Xbox 360, PS3, PC)

When Isaac Clarke (read: you) boarded a deep-space mining ship to fix its communication system, he didn't expect everyone on the ship to be dead or to have to annihilate all of the aliens on board. (And really, who would?) If he wants to survive, he's got to use his limited firepower, jetpack, and telekinetic skills.

Good to Know: There is no heads-up display, so nothing gets in the way of the superb graphics.



The Decider: *Silent Hill* offers bad lighting and limited ammo; *Left 4 Dead* lets you take on relentless hordes of zombies; *Dead Space* lets you play in zero-gravity areas. We'll take shooting the crap out of many, many zombies for \$500, Alex.

ALIEN INVASION

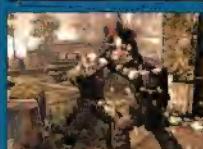


RESISTANCE 2

Sony (PS3)

After decimating Europe, the Chimera turned their focus to eliminating North America, so you'll fight battles in familiar cities like Chicago and San Francisco. The monsters come in bigger sizes (cue the Leviathan) and have infected civilians, transforming them into fast-moving zombies known as the Grim.

Good to Know: You can now blow off enemy body parts one leg at a time.



GEARS OF WAR

Microsoft (Xbox 360)

The Locusts—a race of brutal, gruesome beings from outer space—continue to buzz about, so Marcus Fenix and his compatriot Dominic Santiago launch an offensive attack and take on the alien vermin from underground.

Good to Know: Two new heavy weapons help you obliterate your foes. Also, you'll get bonuses for the achievements you earned in the original.



The Decider: *Gears* lets you fight in the third-person and offers a two-person co-op campaign and five-on-five multiplayer. *Resistance* is in the first-person mode with eight-player co-op and a whopping 60-person multiplayer option. So would you rather fight monsters or alien insects?

Sleeper Hits

You may not have heard of these titles, but neither have your friends. It's your chance to be the leader of the pack.

MUSHROOM MEN

Gamecock (Wii, DS)

According to legend, when a comet passes by Earth, the dust it leaves behind causes Earth's vegetation to become sentient. Mushrooms have since divided into four species-specific tribes and are engaged in a civil war. As Pax, you'll face off against kudzu, blitz malicious rabbits, and utilize magical powers to maneuver through this fantastical world.

Good to Know: Serious weapon modification lets you turn everyday objects into crazy new tools.



LITTLEBIGPLANET

Sony (PS3)

At first, the physics platformer might seem simple, but its strength lies in giving you the freedom and tools to create almost any kind of level you can imagine. When you're done, fill it with characters, play through it, and share it with friends.

Good to Know: You're able to add game-based items, including a Killzone mask.

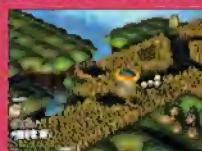


MIRROR'S EDGE

EA (Xbox 360, PS3, PC)

Remember the opening scene of *Casino Royale*, in which Daniel Craig's young James Bond chased the villain on foot? That's the kind of death-defying gameplay you'll experience as the sexy, rebellious Faith.

Good to Know: The always-moving camera might make your friends barf if they're watching from the side. You won't, though, because the on-screen reticule keeps you looking straight ahead.



FLOCK

Capcom (Xbox Live, PS3, PC)

Kidnap loads of farm animals by shuffling them aboard your alien spaceship. Along the way, push the shit out of cows to destroy obstacles, shrink rams made of cotton balls by dousing them with water, and, if necessary, convince the pink ewe to mate with them.

Good to Know: The level creator allows you to build challenging puzzles or Rube Goldberg machines.



SHAUN WHITE SNOWBOARDING

Ubisoft (Xbox 360, PS3, PS2, PC, Wii, DS, PSP)

There have been a handful of winter titles for the Wii, but, until now, none have lived up to our snow-filled dreams. With the integration of the Balance Board, this game responds to your small movements in surprisingly realistic ways.

Good to Know: You can almost feel your abs burning after shushing down the mountain. Just don't expect any gold medals around your neck.



Creature Creator

Sometimes, the best part of a videogame is the creatures you encounter. This is especially true for games like *Resistance 2*, in which you battle an alien race known as the Chimera. We spoke with Darren Quach, the game's lead concept artist, about what goes on behind the scenes.

How is a Chimera like the massive Leviathan developed?

We get a description and rough specs from the guys who write the story. From there, we start drawing and putting it out for people to see. I'd do a couple of takes and Rodrigo Ribeiro [the other designer] will riff on that. Then it gets built and animated and programmed and play tested. That happens with each creature and vehicle and weapon we design.

Where did you draw inspiration from?

We talked about H.P. Lovecraft in the really

early designs. And we were looking a lot at H.R. Giger. But there's not one look or property that we're heavily basing everything on. We were looking at things and thinking, "How can we make this our own?"

What was it like the first time you saw one of your drawings come to life?

I was pretty stoked. I went home and told my friends. I have a lot of fun helping create worlds and populating them. When you're drawing these monsters, having that become a property other people can see and experience is pretty neat.

But isn't it depressing knowing they'll be killed?

That's kind of cool, too, because we design the weapons to blow them up.

Do the creatures have back stories we don't know about?

That's part of the process. The Grim, for example, are townspeople infected by the Chimera, as opposed to just being zombies. They were cocooned in other creatures, so you'll see cocoons scattered around those levels. That adds to their story without stating what is going on.



Battle of the Bands

Rock Band 2 (MTV Games/EA) vs. *Guitar Hero World Tour* (Activision)

By adding drums and a mike, the *Guitar Hero* franchise looks to steal *Rock Band's* spotlight. We break down the beats.

INSTRUMENTS



ROCK BAND 2

The lineup includes a faux-wood Fender guitar, microphone, and choice of drum kits. The standard kit has a metal-reinforced bass pedal; clip-on cymbals are sold separately. The Ion kit (\$300!) comes with two large cymbals, four drums, and a bass pedal. Both are quieter than the original.

GUITAR HERO WORLD TOUR

The guitar has touch pads, so you can tap instead of strum. The drums come with cymbals, and since the buttons are at the top of the drum kit, you won't accidentally pause the game when doing a fill.

Winner? Tie, as long as money is no object.



CHARACTER CREATION



ROCK BAND 2

It's similar to the original, but the same avatar can play all the instruments.

GUITAR HERO WORLD TOUR

Your avatar's appearance and instruments' design are fully customizable, all the way down to the fret bars.

Winner? *Guitar Hero World Tour*.



STANDOUT SONGS



ROCK BAND 2

AC/DC's "Let There Be Rock"; Bob Dylan's "Tangled Up in Blue"; "Shackler's Revenge," the first single from the Guns N' Roses album *Chinese Democracy*.

GUITAR HERO WORLD TOUR

Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train" and "Mr. Crowley," Jimi Hendrix's "The Wind Cries Mary" and "Purple Haze," Van Halen's "Hot for Teacher."

Winner? *Rock Band 2*.



SPECIAL ONLINE FEATURES



ROCK BAND 2

Any songs you downloaded for *Rock Band* carry over.

GUITAR HERO WORLD TOUR

You can create songs and post five of them online. If the community likes your goods, you're allowed to add more.

Winner? *Guitar Hero*.



THE HEADLINER

On paper, *Guitar Hero* comes out as the king of the stage, but *Rock Band's* songs and sweet drum kit make it the winner.

Saints and Sinners

Adult-film star Tera Patrick played *Frogger* as a youth. Now she's clearly all grown up.

You're a Special Producer for *Saints Row 2*.

What did you do?

I feel like they brought me on not just as a producer but as a spokesmodel. I'm in the process of filming a series of diary videos about customization and combat and all the different things you can do in the game.

Has working on it made you more of a gamer?

It has, but I don't think I play the cool games. I have a DS and I play *Strawberry Shortcake* and a puppy game.

What do you think of the shooter games?

I think they're fun. It's a good release, pardon the pun. We've come a long way from *Paperboy*.

Did you play *Paperboy* growing up?

I loved *Paperboy*. They had the machine over at this candy shop. My sister and I were obsessed. We were also obsessed with *Ms. Pac-Man*. Then we'd go home and hook up our Atari and it was *Asteroids* and *Freeway* and *Frogger*. It was a great escape. You can lose your mind in it. Kind of like porn.

Your porn name is Tera Patrick. Linda Ann

Hopkins Shapiro wasn't hot enough for you?

I don't have any problems with my real name.

I just assumed that nobody went by their real name. But it's been legally changed. I haven't gone by Linda Hopkins in nine years.

You have a nursing degree. Have you used those skills on set?

If someone falls, I just kick 'em and go, "Get back up, you!" No, I have. I was on a *Penthouse* set a few years ago in Costa Rica. We were shooting on a live volcano and the photographer's assistant slipped and his foot went into the volcano. It was burned really badly, and nobody else knew what to do. It's something I can still fall back on. My husband Evan [Seinfeld of *Biohazard*] wants to make a movie about sexy nurses. Maybe I'll just break out my old uniforms!

Many women say a sense of humor and confidence are their biggest turn-ons. Is that really what they want?

It's definitely what I want, but I also think it has to be wrapped in a pretty package. That's the part that they leave off. When you're younger, you tend to go for the guy who's got the big drive and the nice toys. Then a couple of years later, you start dating guys who treat you a little bad. Later on, you're like, I just want a guy who's nice to me. I found my best friend and partner in Evan.

Do you have a celebrity crush you fantasize about?

I have a couple. My latest obsession is Bear Grylls, from *Man vs. Wild*. He's an extreme survivalist and that turns me on. And I love English men. Bear and Daniel Craig. It's a beautiful pictorial. Just shoot it. —T



Highland

A collage of images serves as the background for the title. It includes a large, multi-story stone building with many windows, a person in a Penthouse magazine costume, and a group of people running in a race on a grassy field.

What happens when you send a Penthouse Pet, a reality-TV star, and two regular joes to compete in an adventure race in the rugged north of Scotland?

By John Bolster
Photographs by Rodrick Cox



ers



Drambuie Pursuit

O'Connell (left, reclining) and Vandeven, the 2007 Penthouse Pet of the Year, survived a grueling ascent of Carr Brae, then a hairy off-road mountain-bike descent (below) of a neighboring peak.

We drank like champions, witnessed three near-fistfights, and narrowly missed uprooting a crosswalk light with our vehicle. And that was just on the ride to the airport.

A quick word to the wise about Drambuie, the honey-and-herb-flavored Scottish liqueur with a legendary 250-year history: Don't let its pleasing taste and smooth character distract you from the facts that (a) it's made of malt whisky, (b) it's 80 proof, and (c) if you down it like it's some kind of peach schnapps-style girl drink, *it will fuck you up*.

That was a lesson our group learned right off the bat. Well, most of our group, anyway.

There were 40 of us, and we were headed overseas, as guests of Drambuie, to participate in the Drambuie Pursuit, a nine-stage adventure race in the fairy tale-beautiful Scottish Highlands.

Our teams of four would be shooting arrows, riding speed-boats, hiking up mountains, canoeing, biking, running, and, in some cases, puking. Team Penthouse consisted of 2007 Penthouse Pet of the Year Heather Vandeven, former *Bachelor* contestant Charlie O'Connell, an agent named Brian, and a broken-down *Penthouse* editor with a trick knee. We would span 180 miles of land and water in the event, which is a reenactment of Bonnie Prince Charlie's legendary escape from the English in 1746. After a failed attempt to reclaim the British throne for his father, the Scottish prince fled through the Highlands, protected by the region's clans. As an expression of his gratitude, the story goes, the prince gave his secret recipe for Drambuie Liqueur to James Mackinnon, captain of the Highland clans.

After a send-off party at the Penthouse Executive Club in Midtown Manhattan, we boarded the bus to the airport for our flight to Glasgow. People were ready to take it to the next level. Bottles of Drambuie made the rounds and were tipped heavily,

and the company motto—"Enjoy our good taste with your good judgment"—went right out the window, with painful results in some cases. One woman began the bus trip as a fresh-faced, bubbly blonde, only to finish it wandering blotto and cadaverous-looking through the airport terminal without her luggage.

Fortunately, she figured it out and went a little easier on the stuff for the remainder of the trip (and someone found her luggage). One guy failed so spectacularly to learn the lesson that he got booted from the trip when we landed in Glasgow.

But once he was gone, and everyone else got their sea legs, the trip rocked. From Glasgow, we made the short voyage to Edinburgh, the historic capital of Scotland. After a day of sightseeing and a welcome party, we boarded a bus the next morning for the Highlands—*Braveheart* country.

Anyone who slept on that two-hour journey missed some of the most spectacular scenery on the globe, one majestic vista after another: snow-capped peaks, lush valleys and meadows, and the sprawling Loch Ness.

The scenery functioned as a direct counterpoint to the cuisine, which we're pretty sure has inspired no poetry, except maybe a dirty limerick or two. Most of the food looks like something you might eat on a dare. Have you ever tried black pudding? You should know that the term *pudding* here is a total smoke screen. Not since *sweetbreads* has a euphemism been employed more brazenly. Black pudding is in fact a sausage made by cooking blood until it is thick enough to congeal when cooled.

There was a lump of it sitting on our plates on the morning of the big race, and since we'll try anything once, we gave it a go. Our reaction? Let's just say we've crossed "choke down a piece of blood sausage" off our bucket list, and never speak of it again. Now it was time to suit up for stage one of the event, a Zapcat powerboat race.



Zapcats are two-person inflatable speedboats; one person drives (Drambuie provided us with professionals) and the other functions as dynamic ballast, also known as "hanging on for dear life in the front of the boat and trying not to get tossed out by the g-force as you round the turns at top speed." We all took a turn in the Zapcat, and, needless to say, this stage was awesome. Even though our boat's engine died right out of the gate and we had to scramble for a new one, Team Penthouse rallied to escape a last-place finish.

Stage two had two parts: One team member made a three-kilometer uphill bike ride to the foot of a mountain, then the remaining three teammates climbed the mountain on foot. Our man Charlie O'Connell was on the hike team, and he was so gassed by the end that he had to crawl the last 20 yards. Two teams passed him where he lay. "I felt like the snail that gets overrun by two turtles," he said. "It all happened so fast!"

After the climb, we traveled 40 miles to some rapids for a white-water raft race. Let the record show that Team Penthouse's white-water-rafting skills were not up to snuff. We're not sure what the problem was, exactly, but we stunk so bad that, after seeing us in action, our guide simply stopped giving us pointers. Apparently, we were beyond help. Luckily, the river had a current, so we eventually did reach the finish line. We're pretty sure we placed last in that stage. Dead last.

Next, we biked two miles up a mountain, then barreled back down on an off-road trail. Given the all-USA lineup of participants, this brutal descent had *international incident* written all over it. It was really steep, and it plunged through mud, stones, tree roots,

Given the all-USA lineup, the brutal mountain-bike descent had *international incident* written all over it.





An archery competition (topping) determined the start order, and gave way to rappelling, white-water rafting, and a medals ceremony not remotely involving Team Penthouse.



and hairpin turns. The whole white-knuckled way down, the main thought in our heads was, *How the hell is Heather Vandeven going to come out of this alive?*

Amazingly, Heather not only made it down in one piece, she also finished ahead of fellow Team Penthouse members Charlie and Brian.

With only three stages left, Team Penthouse was in good position to achieve the two objectives it set after taking stock of the rest of the field. Goal No. 1: Have a good time. Goal No. 2: Defeat at least one of the other nine teams. No. 1 was in the bag—we were having a blast—and No. 2 was within reach, as we were in ninth place.

We held that position until the final stage, a one-mile run through the city center of Inverness. But the tenth-place team, the Rusty Nails, was nipping at our heels. O'Connell looked like he might not make it. But as we labored toward the finish line at Inverness Castle, just a short uphill sprint away, he and Heather made one last heroic push, putting a few crucial yards between us and the Nails. Then, just to be sure, Brian grabbed them both and shoved them over the line.

Goal No. 2 accomplished.

O'Connell collapsed on the ground in the finish area, and we can't say we ever saw him get up. We're not saying he perished there, but we didn't see him rise.

When all was said and done, it was a spectacular event (a team of Idaho smoke jumpers—guys who parachute into forest fires, on purpose, to fight them—ended up winning, by the way), and worth it for the scenery alone.

If you happen to see a few Drambuie representatives at your local watering hole some time soon, offering chances at a free trip to Scotland, sign up and give it a shot. You won't regret it. 

See PursuitOf1745.com for more on the Drambuie Pursuit.



Metallica: Don't Call It a Comeback

After a five-year hiatus, the monsters of rock return with Death Magnetic. To celebrate the occasion, we present everything you ever wanted to know about Metallica but were too drunk or ear-damaged to ask.



Just the Facts, Ma'am

In honor of Metallica's 27 years together, we've compiled 27 fun Metallica facts. By Lisa Panzariello

1. METALLICA IS CELEBRATED ON MARCH 7 IN THEIR HOMETOWN OF SAN FRANCISCO

Since 1999, when the band was inducted into the San Francisco Walk of Fame, Official Metallica Day has been on the calendar.

2. BACON IS A FOOD GROUP

For their 2004 tour, Metallica's rider stated—in all caps—it is "very important that bacon be available at every meal and during the day." They also insist upon British tea.

3. NO SKATEBOARDING ALLOWED

Because James Hetfield has injured himself numerous times on tour, primarily by skateboarding, it's rumored that he's legally forbidden to skateboard before or during a tour. Guess that's the punishment you get when you smash up your wrist skating and your tech steps in to play guitar.

4. REAL MEN WEAR JEWELRY

Back in the day, Hetfield picked up a wolf pendant and Cliff Burton bought a skull ring at the London shop the Great Frog. Following Burton's passing, Hetfield began to wear the ring.

5. IS THERE AN ARTIST IN THE HOUSE?

Before Metallica soared to stardom, Hetfield had dreams of becoming a graphic designer. He designed the band's ninja star, "scary guy" logos, and the embellished Metallica name.

6. GET A ROOM, DUDE

As a Christian Scientist, Hetfield was required to leave class in high school if the teacher was discussing sex. Perhaps a little education on the matter would have made him a more considerate roommate. According to Lars Ulrich, Hetfield would have sex with his girlfriend even if the drummer was in the room.

7. LISTEN UP

The band's largest listening party to date was at the 1996 DYNAMO festival. *Load* was played for 60,000-plus fans.

8. WILL THE ORIGINAL BASSIST PLEASE STAND UP?

Original bassist/lead roadie Ron McGovney met Hetfield in middle school. In 2004, McGovney hawked most of his Metallica memorabilia on eBay, to the joy of some lucky fans.

9. IF YOU PLAY IT BACKWARD ...

"Blackened," the opener to the album... *And Justice for All*, was recorded with several guitars on a tape that was then flipped. In other words, it was recorded backward.

10. STUFFED ANIMALS

Kirk Hammett has a fascination with taxidermy. He has a stuffed monkey and a stuffed two-headed sheep.

11. SUPERHERO-WORTHY

Hugh Jackman has said that when he was getting in shape to play Wolverine, he'd blast Metallica and scream along.

12. LOCK 'EM UP

In the past, Metallica has prepared for overenthused concertgoers by bringing two jail cells out on tour with them.

13. THIS STINKS

In 1999, Metallica sued Victoria's Secret for putting out a lip pencil called "Metallica." A year later, they sued perfume maker Guerlain when it put out a scent called "Metallica."

14. MAN WITH A PLAN

Hetfield listed "Play music, get rich" as his plans in his high school yearbook.

15. IF YOU PLAY IT, HE WILL COME

Hammett is a fan of legendary horror writer H. P. Lovecraft, whose squidlike creature Cthulhu inspired the song "Call of Ktulu." As for the misspelling, according to Lovecraft's stories, writing or saying *Cthulhu* will bring the monster closer.

16. INSPIRATIONAL BEAUTY

Prior to becoming the second Mrs. Ulrich, Skylar Satenstein dated Matt Damon; she was the inspiration for Damon's love interest in *Good Will Hunting*.

17. RHYMES WITH THUNDERSTRUCK

Before Ulrich borrowed Metallica from their buddy Ron Quintana's list of potential titles for his magazine, Thunderfuck was on the band's list of possible names.

18. SOMETIMES THEY JUST NAME THEMSELVES

The original title for Metallica's debut album was *Metal Up Your Ass*. When the record company balked, Burton, frustrated, exclaimed, "Fuck 'em, just kill 'em all!"

19. THEY'RE ANIMATED

Hetfield and Hammett lent their voices to a variety of characters, including the queen of Denmark and a giant devil, during the first season of Cartoon Network's *Metalocalypse*.

20. NO SLEEP FOR THE WICKED

The famed "Enter Sandman" riff was written at 3 A.M. by Hammett. The title comes from a sign in his friend's guitar store that reads "No Enter Sandman."

21. CRUEL AND UNUSUAL

When Jason Newsted replaced Burton, the band hazed him by tricking him into eating wasabi by telling him it was mint ice cream, throwing his personal belongings out his hotel-room window, and barring him from riding in the limo with them.

22. FAMOUS LAST WORDS

Hetfield turned his grandfather's last words—"So close no matter how far / Couldn't be much more from the heart / Forever trusting who we are / And nothing else matters"—into lyrics for Metallica's classic tune "Nothing Else Matters."

23. WHOOPS!

At the end of "Breadfan," a little girl asks, "Mommy, where's Fluffy?" This was supposed to be at the beginning of "The Prince," about a girl who kills her parents for losing her doll.

24. PEOPLE, STEP AWAY FROM THE RAILINGS

In 2000, during their Summer Sanitarium tour, a Baltimore fan fell to his death before the show even started, and a man from Holland followed suit during their 2004 tour.

25. GETTING SOME ON THE SIDE

Metallica has banned members from engaging in side projects, but most play with other bands on occasion. Hetfield sang backing vocals to two tracks on Danzig's debut album.

26. ANGER MANAGEMENT

St. Anger was reportedly dedicated to avant-garde filmmaker Kenneth Anger, who was friends with Anton Szandor LaVey, the founder of the Church of Satan.

27. MULTITASKERS EXTRAORDINAIRE

According to Newsted, Ulrich used to get blowjobs during shows while Newsted was nailing elaborate solos.

Hear 'Em All

When Lars Ulrich and James Hetfield got together, it set in motion a chain of events that would change the way the world saw power chords. And even after several trips to rehab, a band member's death, and a few genuinely crappy albums, the music is still the most important thing. Well, that and money.—Stan Horaczek



CHANNING LUTHER/CORBIS

★★★

No Life 'Til Leather
(1982)

This is the demo that was reworked into *Kill 'Em All*. Check out Dave Mustaine's original interpretations of the guitar parts and hear Hetfield before he downed a thousand bottles of booze. And we didn't tell you you could find it on the Internet. *Penthouse Pick:* "Seek and Destroy"



★

Reload
(Elektra, 1997)

Here's another album full of blues-inspired rock tracks that have nothing to do with thrash. It was supposed to be the second disc of *Load* and it should have been. At least fans wouldn't have had to suffer through two consecutive bad releases. *Penthouse Pick:* "Carpe Diem, Baby!"

★★★★

Kill 'Em All
(Megaforce, 1983)

They cut their label some slack by dropping the record's original name, *Metal Up Your Ass*, but musically they refused to budge. Millions of guitarists were introduced to Kirk Hammett, and would steal riffs from him for the next 20-plus years. *Penthouse Pick:* "Whiplash"



★

Garage, Inc.
(Elektra, 1998)

Not everyone can shell out top dollar for the original vinyl singles, so the band released a double album of covers. Tracks range from a leisurely version of Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Tuesday's Gone" to the grimy hardcore of Killing Joke and the Misfits. *Penthouse Pick:* "Whiskey in the Jar" (Thin Lizzy)

★★★★

Ride the Lightning
(Megaforce, 1984)

The songs got heavier, longer, and more complex, but this was a bigger commercial success than their debut. It's seen as a true metal classic by everyone but Mustaine, who's still grumpy about getting kicked out for drug and alcohol use. *Penthouse Pick:* "Creeping Death"



★

"Hell Isn't Good"
(1999)

Hetfield laid down perfect vocals for the soundtrack of Kenny's trip to hell during the *South Park* movie, but it was Trey Parker and Matt Stone's band, DVDA (Double Vaginal, Double Anal), that provided the music. For reasons we can't fathom, however, it's not on the soundtrack CD.

Unplugged

No matter how many live shows you go to, you may never hear these songs. We hope they're not your favorites.—Ed Condran

"ESCAPE"
(Ride the Lightning)

Reason: Taste. Rumor has it that Hetfield once claimed this song is the one he least likes to play live, and, perhaps as a result, it has never been performed onstage in its entirety.

"THE FRAYED ENDS OF SANITY"
"To Live Is To Die"
(...And Justice for All)

Reason: Length. After writing the album, Hetfield says the band realized that some of the songs were "too fucking long." Parts of both of these have been played,

but the full versions clock in at nearly eight and ten minutes, respectively. Even we don't have that much stamina.

"ORION"
(Master of Puppets)

Reason: Respect. This song was composed primarily by Metallica's late bassist Cliff Burton. As his ashes were scattered, the band played the instrumental song, but did not perform the full version live again until 2006, to mark the 20th anniversary

of the album's release.

"DYERS EVE"
(...And Justice for All)

Reason: Difficulty. What this song lacks in length—at least, compared to the others on this album—it makes up in complexity, and the band has claimed the track is too difficult to pull off onstage. The song finally made its live debut during their 2003–2004 Madly in Anger With the World tour, and they've started to add more songs from the album to their live canon. We think 16 years later is better than never.

Cover Us

These alternate versions of Metallica songs live up to the originals.

"ORION," RODRIGO Y GABRIELA

The fleet-fingered classical-guitar-playing duo's visceral version miraculously surpasses their moving take on "Stairway to Heaven."

"SAD BUT TRUE," SNOOP DOGG

The Doggfather lays down a spirited rap; in the video, Metallica watches, grinning, as Snoop delivers the verbal smackdown.

"MASTER OF PUPPETS," PRIMUS

Following Burton's death, slap-happy bassist Les Claypool tried out for the post. He didn't get it, but the minute-long bass solo here proves he could have worked out.

Master of Puppets (Elektra, 1986)

It received almost no radio play, presumably because of its potential to melt the face off the average Top 40 listener, but the band's first record to be certified gold proves these four guys understand the thrash metal genre better than anyone in the world.

Penthouse Pick: "Damage, Inc."



MASTER OF PUPPETS

And Justice for All (Elektra, 1988)

When bassist Cliff Burton died, he left a hole that, at first, Jason Newsted didn't fill. The pessimistic lyrics and epic songwriting stayed, but, in one of the biggest upsets in Grammy history, that year's Best Hard Rock/Metal award went to Jethro Tull. Penthouse Pick: "... And Justice for All"



AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Metallica (Elektra, 1991)

Depending on what kind of fan you are, this may be where your Metallica collection begins or ends. Lars slowed down his formerly frenetic pace, and "Enter Sandman" was everywhere from MTV to professional sport events. Penthouse Pick: "Sad But True"



Live Shit: Binge & Purge (Elektra, 1993)

To fully capture the live Metallica experience, they released a box set of three CDs, three VHS tapes, and a slew of literature documenting their lives on the road. You'll long for the early nineties, even if you're too young to remember them. Penthouse Pick: "Master of Puppets" (disc 2)



**

Load (Elektra, 1996)

After 15 years of rocking long hair and black Levi's, the boys traded them in for trendy coifs and fashionable suits. The album was tailor-made for rock radio, and the cover photo of semen mixed with cow blood is the most interesting thing about it. Penthouse Pick: "Ain't My Bitch"



LOAD

PREVIEW

Death Magnetic (Warner Bros., 2008)

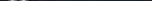
With Rick Rubin—the closest thing the music industry has to a holy man—at the helm, a return to the glory days is finally in sight. Killer production, sober band members, and the triumphant return of Hammett's solos might be enough to make up for them playing the hippie mecca Bonnaroo.



**

SAM (Elektra, 1999)

The track selection is hit or miss, but it's worth the price of admission to hear this live mashup of Metallica and the San Francisco Symphony. Particularly so when the brass section plays behind James Hetfield as he yells, "Burn, motherfucker, burn!" during "Fuel." Penthouse Pick: "One"



**

"Disappear" (2000)

This radio-friendly track was recorded for the *Mission: Impossible 2* soundtrack. Not only was it slow, predictable and, honestly, kind of lame, it's also the song that started the now-legendary Metallica versus Nostrean conflict that made the guys, especially Lars, look like douches.



**

St. Anger (Elektra, 2003)

For the first time since *Justice*, Metallica was playing fast again, but all was still not well. *St. Anger* is devoid of Hammett's trademark solos, and Ulrich proved that it is possible to make an expensive snare drum sound like an overinflated basketball. Penthouse Pick: "St. Anger"



**

Some Kind of Monster (2004)

This soundtrack to their documentary consists of the studio version of the title track and a few live versions of old songs... none of which were in the movie. Don't let the sexy track list fool you—this is one small notch above a bootleg. Penthouse Pick: "Hit the Lights"



But sometimes trying your best just isn't good enough. These covers are among the worst.

"MASTER OF PUPPETS," DREAM THEATER
The prog rockers nail the tune technically, but there's something missing. Personality?

"SAD BUT TRUE," NICKELBACK

The song title sums this up, thanks to Chad Kroeger's mangling of the vocals.

"WELCOME HOME," LIMP BIZKIT

In the spirit of "Break Stuff," Fred Durst destroys this song... with his voice.—E.C.

Metallica Covers Queen! (and Others)

When performing your own songs isn't enough, it's time to do some covers. These are our favorites.—E.C.

"TURN THE PAGE"

Metallica surprisingly kicks the Bob Seger classic in the same tempo as the original. The biggest change is that Kirk Hammett replaces the saxophone line with noodling from his slide guitar. Bonus: The cut hit No. 1 on Billboard's Mainstream Rock Tracks chart.

"STONE COLD CRAZY"

The band retooled this Queen B-side by revving it up Metallica-style. Not only did Hetfield amp up

the aggression, he added profanity and violence to the lyrics. Bonus: It worked. Metallica scored a Grammy for their fiery version.

"LOVERMAN"

Nick Cave, the master of dark, sinister tunes, writes songs made for hard rock bands. Though the song was already incendiary, Metallica added a touch more muscle in all the right places.

"CRETIN HOP"

(originally slated for a Ramones tribute album) This tip of the cap to one of the quintessential punk rock bands doesn't fix what ain't broken.

"LAST CARESS"/"GREEN HELL"

It's often debated whether Metallica's version of this Misfits song was an improvement or a disaster, but we think it's a guilty pleasure.

Power Plant

You've seen the screwy YouTube videos, but what exactly is salvia? And for how much longer will it be (mostly) legal?

By Whitney Joiner
Illustration by Douglas Frasier

On a Friday night last fall, I sat in a friend's living room and tripped harder than I had since my college dorm days. This time, though, I wasn't nervously buying questionable substances from the Phish-hugging, hickey-sacking stoners at the nearby hippie college; this trip was facilitated by a psychoactive herb, *Salvia divinorum*, which I'd bought online for around \$30. And in Texas, my current home state, it's perfectly legal.

That night, my salvia-savvy friend—I'll call him Greg—introduced me to the herb. We'd planned our night after he'd touted it as a quickie hallucinogen: "It only lasts ten minutes!"

Salvia, a member of the sage genus and the mint family, is native to Oaxaca, Mexico. The region's Mazatec Indians traditionally use it to induce hallucinatory states during shamanic healing rituals. I loved the idea of buying hallucinogens online; salvia's legality somehow made it seem more subversive, than, say, scoring coke in a bar bathroom. Plus, I'd always wondered about the efficacy of these "shamanic" herbs, and while I'm not invested enough in the question to try some Morrisonian peyote-induced desert spirit journey, I did like the possibility of a ten-minute trip.

They say each generation gets the politicians it deserves, and maybe the same could be said of drugs. After all, it's not 1972 anymore: Who has an entire weekend to devote to recovering from Friday night? A fast and furious trip seems perfectly apropos for a multitasking, Facebooking generation always on the lookout for

the next hookup.

Greg, his wife, another friend, and I sat around the fireplace and packed the pipe. Wary of spending cash on something that would turn out to be no more exciting than dried oregano—and wondering if my stoner years would up my tolerance—I'd bought an extra-potent extract to maximize the evening's potential. "Hold it in for 15 seconds before exhaling," Greg said, passing the pipe. "You'll probably start laughing, and then the trip will start."

Got it. I took the pipe and held in the smoke. A couple of hits later, and boom: I was wasted—and fast. First, I was overtaken by out-of-control laughter. Then my surroundings started to close in: My friends sounded echo-y and far away, and I had to close my eyes to keep from spinning. I felt as if I were being pulled backward into darkness, like I was on an amusement-park ride, backing into a tunnel. My mind suddenly settled into the basement of my early-childhood home, with its late-seventies orange-and-brown color scheme. *Bizarre*. I have to say that the complete loss of my motor functions—I couldn't lift my hands—and my auditory and visual senses wasn't particularly appealing.

Interesting? Sure. Fun? Not really. My companions, on the other hand, loved it, although not in a euphoric way. "It's like going to a new place, mentally," says Greg, who's used salvia multiple times. "But if you're

using it recreationally, you'll probably be disappointed."

As of this writing, salvia is legal in most states. But it won't be for long if the feds get their way. The herb isn't yet classified nationwide as a controlled substance, but the Drug Enforcement Administration is currently going through the motions. "We're in the process of researching salvia under the Controlled Substances Act," says DEA spokesperson Rogene Waite, who told me that 1.8 million people age 12 and older have tried the drug. There aren't many statistics on salvia, but according to Waite, men use it more than women, and it's more popular with teenagers (shocking, right?) than any other demographic. "We're really concerned [about its use]," she says. "Just because a substance isn't illegal doesn't mean it isn't dangerous."

So what exactly spooked the feds? Some lawmakers are grateful to YouTube for introducing them to the drug. For the past year, salvia users have been posting videos of their trips on the site. Most of these stoned movies are mind-numbingly boring, the script unwavering: Dude smokes, laughs, falls over, lies motionless, maybe tries to talk or wave his hands, eventually comes down. Not exactly riveting theater. The images are so dull, in fact, they could even serve as a deterrent for some would-be smokers. And yet, a few YouTube vids might nonetheless prompt a federal ban of the substance.

If that happens, it would seem a bit extreme. After all, there hasn't been a rash of salvia-related crime to contend with. In May, in what seems to be the only known case of a salvia conviction, a North Dakota bottling-plant worker, Kenneth Rau, was arrested for possession with intent to deliver; police found his stash when they entered his home in search of Rau's son, who was on probation for drug charges. Rau senior faces up to five years. And the drug hasn't been proven to be harmful. (A Delaware mom claims otherwise, however: After Kathleen Chidester's discovery that her 17-year-old son Brett was using salvia prior to his suicide in 2006, Chidester championed "Brett's law," the Delaware statute that outlaws salvia in that state.)

A couple of hits later and boom: I was wasted—and fast. Interesting? Sure. Fun? Not really.



So far salvia doesn't appear to be addictive. "I'm not aware of any studies that show that it's habit-forming," says Dr. Thomas Prisinzano, a chemistry professor at the University of Kansas who has studied the drug. "But enough studies haven't been conducted to truly say that it's not addictive." Given the way the drug's main psychoactive ingredient, salvinorin A, acts in the brain, Prisinzano says he wouldn't expect it to be addictive.

A researcher at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Dr. Jacob Hooker, lead author of a recent salvia study, seconds that: "No other kappa-specific agonist [translation: a drug that hits the brain's same opioid receptor as salvinorin A] that's been reported has shown an addiction liability," he says. "So if we'd have to make a prediction, we would say it shouldn't become addictive."

When salvinorin A enters the brain, says Hooker, it flows to the cerebellum, which controls motor function (hence the inability to, you know, move), and to the occipital cortex, the brain's visual-processing unit (hence the altered sight). Prisinzano is in the process of studying whether salvia could be used to treat pain and drug addiction, since it hits the same receptors as morphine. Making salvia illegal on a federal level won't necessarily hinder his or Hooker's research, he says; they'll just have more bureaucratic hurdles to battle. "Illegalizing it means a lot more paperwork, and it's hampering to people who want to conduct clinical trials in humans to get a better understanding of the psychopharmacology," Prisinzano says. "I'm not advocating for it to be legal—I think it needs to be regulated—but let's do some controlled studies and understand this compound before we rush to judgment."

The growing salvia controversy is a source of frustration for Daniel Siebert, a medical botanist and longtime salvia user who is currently working on a book about the herb. The YouTube videos, he says, "portray salvia in a way that's very different than the way it's traditionally used. It's a great tool for evaluation and introspection. But to get that, you need to take the right dosage."

High Crimes

States in which salvia is illegal:

Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Virginia.

States that have restricted its use:

Louisiana, Maine, and Tennessee.

States with legislation pending:

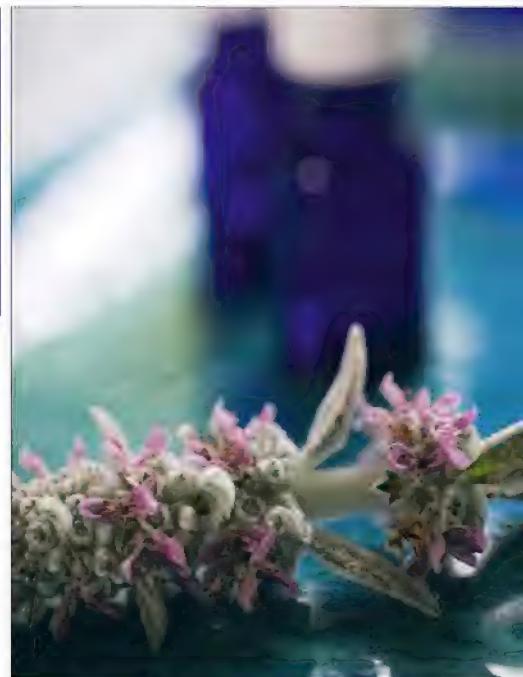
Alaska, California, Iowa, Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina.

Apparently, smoking as much as you can, as fast as you can, isn't the way to go. "A lot of people are getting these excessively potent extracts and smoking too much, and it produces a disorienting, confusing experience," Siebert says. "That's a departure from the time-tested method." When Siebert uses it, he tries to follow the traditional Mazatec method: sitting in a quiet space, alone, and chewing the leaves rather than smoking them. This, says Siebert, results in a gentler experience that lasts longer. "I use it to focus on issues in my life," he says. "It guides the mind into the inner psyche, and your subconscious comes more to the surface. You'll have visions, which, to me, are coming from the unconscious. It's a way to obtain useful information about yourself."

Siebert sees salvia as traveling down the same regulation road as peyote, mushrooms, and other hallucinogens. But the one thing that might keep salvia from becoming a federal priority is the fact that it's just not that much fun. "It doesn't produce euphoria or have a stimulant effect," says Siebert. "A lot of people are looking for things they can use at parties and concerts. Salvia doesn't lend itself to that. Most people who've tried it don't like it. I just don't think it's ever really going to catch on and become a drug of widespread use."

He's probably right. I've subsequently tried salvia again, smoking much less at a sitting than I did that first time last fall. I didn't have a similar reaction; in fact, I hardly felt anything at all. And, as it turns out, that was just fine with me.

Apparently, smoking as much as you can, as fast as you can, isn't the way to go.



Baked Sale

Not all of the below are hallucinogens, but they are all legal. Get 'em while you can!

KRATOM

Brew the leaves of this Southeast Asian tree into a tea. In large amounts, it's like liquid Vicodin; in small, it can be a stimulant.

AMANITA MUSCARIA MUSHROOM

It's another psychoactive hallucinogen. This is the familiar red mushroom with the white dots, as seen in *Super Mario Bros.*, *Fantasia*, and *The Smurfs*.

BLUE OR WHITE LOTUS

This herb is usually added to wine for a mellow body high; it also can act as an aphrodisiac.

KANNA

This South African herb is usually smoked; it can be a mood elevator, and in large amounts can cause a euphoric experience.

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great expectations



Audrey Bitoni says her initial foray into adult entertainment was the most daring thing she's ever done, but it's all worked out even better than she ever expected. "I had high hopes, but I was definitely nervous. Turns out, though, I love what I do, especially when I get to travel and meet new people."

Photographs by
Emma Nixon







"Some of my sexual experiences have been less than satisfying, in an orgasmic sense, so I'm really enjoying having the opportunity to push my own boundaries and, um, let's call it broaden my horizons."



"I did have a really amazing time once when I had sex at school. I won't get into too many details, but let's just say I found out for sure why they say college is a good time to experiment."









"When I fantasize about what other job I would want, I always come back to being a firefighter. There's just something really appealing about the idea of sleeping with all my coworkers."



Q Audrey Bitoni
Pet of the Month
November 2008

Vital stats:

34D-25-33; 5'4"

24 years old

Hometown:

Monrovia, California.

Favorite food:

Twix.

Favorite drink:

Bacardi rum.

Favorite kind of music:

It changes all the time, depending on what mood I'm in.

Favorite sport:

Basketball. Go, Kobe!

Favorite workout:

A good jog.

Favorite way to relax:

Hang out with my bong.

Favorite vacation spot:

New York City. I love the atmosphere and the people.

What do you like most about yourself?

My sense of humor.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

My short temper.

Were you a wild teenager?

My mother would say I was.

Under what circumstances would you have sex with a stranger?

Under all circumstances.

Audrey Bitoni

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The Sham Rocketeer

It's been 80 years since Buck Rogers made his fuel-soaked debut—so where are our jetpacks, already? If Irish theoretical physics student Will Breaden-Madden is right, they might just arrive any minute now.

By Mac Montandon



"hboyohboyohboyohboy!" Oh, boy? Since when do I exclaim "oh, boy" at moments of unusual excitement? It seems so quaintly nerdy. I mean, that's what my grandpa hollered the first time he took me on Space

Mountain at Disney World.

But, as it turns out, this is exactly what I yelp as I'm being whisked off the ground by a 1,600-pound Cessna Skyhawk and suddenly cruising at 9,000 feet above Belfast, Ireland, sharing the cramped, pungent cabin with a wispy-bearded, 19-year-old theoretical physics major at the local Queens College, whom I've known for all of two hours.

"Oh, boy?" I can only hope there isn't a recording of my odd, panicked chirping, the better to blackmail me and thus derail any latent presidential yearnings that I might someday develop.

In my defense, I've never flown in a Cessna before and it's only when Will turns to me and says, with a vaguely sinister smirk, "So, how'd you like to experience zero gravity?" that it strikes me: I don't even care much for roller coasters, let alone tiny, wobbly, metal death boxes operated by complete strangers.

"Um, yeah, sounds great."

With a noise-canceling headset on, my voice sounds as if it's coming from deep inside me, so deep that it could be someone else talking—someone congested, more than a little unnerved, and alarmingly close to throwing up all over the beautiful, round instruments of the dashboard. "Okay, then, you might feel a little unusual but it'll only last a couple of seconds."

"Sure, sure." A couple of seconds—ha! What's a couple of seconds? This...is...them! That's all. I could take anything for a couple of seconds, right? A short skip on smoldering coals; the

briefest of CIA interrogations; a single reaction shot from the Tara Reid cinematic oeuvre.

Will flips a switch: the plane drops as if we've been shot down, and my stomach leaves my body. I taste my teeth. My notebook floats up between our two seats. Zero gravity is two seconds of glorious terror. A voluptuous panic.

I try to appreciate the grandeur below us, which is, nausea be damned, magnificent. We aren't so much flying as floating—and behind us I can see a gorgeous late-fall mosaic made from soft, emerald hills, mauve-laced fog, and the choppy blue-gray sheet of Belfast Harbor. From our current vantage, it's hard to believe this land was once so inflamed. I turn to my left and Will is grinning broadly, a flicker of danger in his eyes.

It's funny where certain ideas come from.

The Wright brothers were just a pair of unassuming bike-shop retailers when they decided to change the world forever. It was while observing the motion of an empty bicycle-tube cardboard box as he twisted it that Wilbur Wright came up with his theory on wing-warping, unlocking one key to the challenge of flight. This allowed the wings to twist slightly, enabling the pilot to control an aircraft's direction without having to contort his own body to do so. Very important. By all accounts, Wilbur was less than elated to be working at the shop that day, or any other day, but if he hadn't been, who knows if you'd be going to Cancún next week.

The idea that ultimately took me to see Will in Belfast and many other places, too, has a similarly modest origin. I was talking with my friend Jofie on the phone one day. Nothing especially noteworthy, just the usual business about sports, books, life, the future. But that day was different because at one point Jofie blurted out, "I mean, where's my fucking jetpack, you know?"

"Excuse me?"

"You heard me: Where's. My. Fucking. Jetpack? Look—you



can hold your entire musical library in your pocket. We've got cellphones and laptops and the Segway—the fucking Segway—and you're telling me we can't have our own personal jetpacks by now? That's bullshit."

For weeks after we spoke, I couldn't get Jofie's question out of my head. Having come of age in the *Star Wars* era, I'm part of the post-moon-landing, post-World's Fairs generation, and thus was once very certain that by no later than the year 2000 we would be living *in the future*. And in that glorious future, we would have long ago traded in our dirt-streaked Hyundais and battered Kia Sportages for shiny metal backpacks with jet engines welded to them, the better to launch ourselves like urban angels over bumper-to-bumper rush-hour traffic. Or, at the very least, we'd have hovercrafts and flying cars. But really, the future meant jetpacks.

Why did I believe in such a future? Simple: That's what I'd been told since I was a very young boy. I was told that at the movies, where the single coolest character perhaps ever, George Lucas's bounty-hunting Boba Fett, blasted off at the drop of a Wookiee scalp with his clunky, dusty, and most righteous jetpack—the thing looked like a portable missile launcher dreamed up in the Renaissance—in the third installment of the original *Star Wars* trilogy. And I was told that when I snuck some TV and caught *The Jetsons*. And when I flipped through a magazine at the dentist's office and came across a Canadian Club whiskey ad featuring a man with great teeth, a hot girlfriend—and a jetpack. I was even told it in real life, when I'd press my dad or grandfather to tell me the truth about jetpacks and they would say, "Yeah. Yeah, I could see that." Aha!

Flying fantasies confront us at every turn. And there is evidence it's been this way for a very long time. A recent fossil discovery revealed that the first mammals capable of a gliding flight lived many millions of years ago. The fossil in question belongs to a Chinese squirrel-like creature, which possessed a stretchy membrane between its front and back legs that served as wings. Some scientists believe the animal may have lived as long ago as 164 million years, meaning that mammals were taking to the air before birds.

Yet we, the ultimate mammals, still have no jetpacks.

An old Silicon Valley proverb says, If a thing exists, there is a Yahoo Group for it. That's a rough translation from ancient Geek, but you get the idea.

The Yahoo Rocketbelt Group was founded in 2003 by Peter Gijsberts, a divorced father of one, who manages a (ground) transportation company and lives in the southern part of the Netherlands that Vincent van Gogh found irresistible. Today, the group has about 140 members who gather electronically from all over the world—Australia, Spain, Germany, England, New Jersey—to admire, praise, relive, and, in a handful of cases, even attempt to rebuild Bell Aerosystems' 1960s rocket belt—a futuristic gadget that once got about ten feet off the ground but, for many complicated reasons, never completely took off.

For those ambitious, hard-core fans looking to get themselves airborne, the countdown to liftoff has been long, dangerous, and expensive—it is, apparently, possible to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars outfitting your home workshop with new giant lathes, enormous welding machines, a home mill, and many other assorted power tools.

A few months after joining the group, I open my e-mail to find a message that I could not resist: Peter is making plans for the first-ever "International Rocketbelt Convention." Members are



Will Breaden-Madden
at the First International
Rocketbelt Convention;
Boba Fett (below), among
the coolest bad guys in
film history, takes aim. The
future as imagined by Bell
Aerosystems (right, above)
and Go Fast (right, bottom).



"We've got cellphones, laptops,
and the fucking Segway.
You're telling me we can't have
personal jetpacks?"

invited for a weekend in Niagara Falls, where the local air-and-space museum will host former Bell engineers, pilots, and their families, as well as enthusiasts, tinkerers, and builders from all over the world. It's a weekend salute to diligence, determination, and protective eyewear; dreams, obsessions, and an astounding passion for leaping heavenward. It was there, in Niagara Falls, in the hotel's main convention room, that a friend called me over to meet a man who looked to be about half the age of the next youngest guy in the room. He wore a student's scruffy beard, a jaunty hat that Indiana Jones might've packed while vacationing in Australia, and a fitted, stylish army green jacket. In a place ruled by saggy jeans and ill-fitting tees, the kid stood out; he had a look.

"This is Will Breaden-Madden. He flew over by himself from Ireland—you have to hear what he's working on."

We shake hands, Will stepping back slightly and lowering his head as if doing an interpretive dance about shyness.

Of course I want to hear all about what he is working on—the little bit I'd already heard sounded very promising, but I wondered how much to believe. Will and I had exchanged a few e-mails soon after I'd joined the Yahoo group. He told me he was studying theoretical physics at the Queens College in Belfast. He told me that when he received his pilot's license at a flying school in Tampa, Florida, he became, at 17, the youngest Irishman ever to do so. And he told me he was building a machine and he'd given it a splashy, if unintentionally funny, name: The ShamRocket.

But that's all he'd tell me for now. Unlike most of the group's

members, Will prefers to keep a low profile, to fly under the radar, as it were. At least until he has something to show.

"I'm planning a trip to the U.K. later this fall," I tell Will. "Perhaps I could swing by to see you, too."

And a few months later, he's waiting for me in the Belfast station. He's wearing the same fitted fatigue jacket, black T-shirt, and quasi-Indiana Jones hat he had on in Niagara. I'm surprised to learn that Will has made a lunch reservation at the swanky, ornate Merchant Hotel and that we take a taxi there. My teenage host pays for the cab, reaching into a brown paper envelope for the paper pounds.

Inside, it's all rose-velvet banquette and chairs, gold-filigreed ceiling, stained-glass mosaics, and piped-in harp solos. The whole thing feels peculiarly romantic—hyper romantic, even. I count more tiny cupids than diners.

As we look over the menu, I ask Will if there is anything he doesn't eat.

"Well, I don't eat monkeys," he says, as if he'd been asked the question too many times already.

The waitress takes our order. She sets down two bowls of cream of parsnip soup and says, "Enjoy." As she walks away, Will leans in close and almost whispers, "If anyone says, 'Enjoy,' what they should really say is, 'Enjoy it.' That's correct grammar."

He's right, I suppose, but still.

I turn the conversation to the ShamRocket—which, I couldn't help but notice, is nowhere to be seen. Will tells me it is being stored at his parents' place in Longford County and there's no way we can go there today, since he has a presentation to give tomorrow on the topic of teleportation. "Of atoms, not apples," he points out. But that's okay, he assures me, he's just a few months from being ready to publicly demonstrate his ShamRocket, and he offers to fly me back over at that time to be the first journalist to cover the event. He's thinking February 13, picking the unlucky number "just to mess with people." He's already begun alerting friends and family.

Then Will gives me his quick history—a lifelong fascination with flight, a boyhood ability to make anything, really, and the burning desire to solve, once and for all, the airtime duration problem that's plagued wannabe Rocketeers for close to a century. He tells me that his parents—dad's an architect; mom's a psychologist—have helped pay for his work so far but that he's also secured funding from a European mogul who'd rather remain anonymous.

"In case things don't work out, he doesn't want to look bad. That's all, then."

Will reached the unnamed mogul through a letter-writing campaign, for which he drafted notes to some of the world's richest men, Sir Richard Branson among them, seeking financing for the ShamRocket.

"I'm pretty good at getting people to do what I want," he concludes.

"Well, I'm here, aren't I?"

We both laugh—me a little uneasily. I push away the thought that I'm being strung along. Really—to what end?

When we first began corresponding months ago, Will had made it sound as if I were mere weeks away from flying his jetpack. He'd written, "The ShamRocket 2 will be able to run on a variety of fuels (including diesel and Jet-A1) ... it will have a flight time of 10-15 minutes (this should improve, but is the estimate for my prototype) If you hold off on coming over for, say, a month, I'll probably have the ShamRocket 2 completed."

And later he'd written, "I currently have both engines fully



working, but I am continuing to test some aspects of them. I have almost all of the chassis completed; almost all of the electronics completed, and just a few minor odds and ends to acquire. I have designed a safety device for the unit also, and I am currently researching this. You will notice that all previous rocket belts have had no real safety/back-up system. I anticipate that the safety system I have designed will be so safe that practically anyone can fly this jetpack in complete security. In other words, the device should not be available exclusively to pilots, but to the general public, and may genuinely provoke a revolution in transportation."

Yes! Or, no? Will pulls more bills from his mysterious brown paper envelope to pay for lunch.

Now we are in another cab, speeding toward the Ulster Flying Club on the city's outskirts. Will wants to take me up in the Cessna he rents there. We pass Northern Ireland's parliament building, a dark castle set quite far back from the road at the end of a mile-long driveway, as if, one can only imagine, to forestall any unwelcome guests.

Suddenly, Will pulls a gold object from a pocket. "It's called a '999' key—it works like a skeleton key in that it can unlock any door in the world. I found the plans on the Internet."

He places the key in my hand with instructions for use: All I need to do is shave half a millimeter off the end, insert it in a keyhole, tap the back with the handle of a screwdriver, say, and—voilà! Access.

I ask him what is motivating his work on the ShamRocket. He immediately ticks off the three forces at work:

1. "Just to be able to do it—to build something that can fly."
2. "To get recognition for it, like, to be 'Ireland's First Rocketeer.'"
3. "And maybe to get money off of it—though I'm not sure how that would be done. That's all, then."

Has he filed any patents? No, he hadn't thought of that.

That's how I ended up experiencing the voluptuous panic of zero gravity with a 19-year-old Irish theoretical physics major with a scraggly beard and a slightly deranged look in his eye. Oh, and also climbing frantically at 1.5 G's, which is no voluptuous panic to the uninitiated—just straight panic, nothing voluptuous about it. Teeth-clenching, ass-driven-into-the-chair, quivering panic. Nausea on both counts.

But, really, it's not all awful. There's that view I mentioned earlier, for one thing—the breathtaking sweep of the purple-gray smoky jigsaw of Belfast. And the sensation is vastly different from flying in a giant commercial airplane. It is much more like an exhilarating weightless floating than the labored, rattling climb one experiences in the unpleasant tube of a 747 cabin.

So I feel a mix of giddy relief and already?—ness when I realize Will is circling for landing. He explains a few techniques for lining up the runway and says, "Dead reckoning—I tend to use that one the most."

As we swoop in low, birdlike, I can't help but marvel aloud at what an incredible invention this is. "Yes," Will shouts, so that I might hear through my noise-canceling headset. "Wings are wonderful things."

Though it seems as much a part of his personality as the porkpie is to Popeye Doyle, it turns out Will Breaden-Madden purchased his hat only two weeks before I met him in Niagara Falls. But the hat was effectively incorporated into his look when he noticed the reaction it generated from strangers. Some would call out, "Hey, cowboy!" and fire a finger-pistol at him. Others just called him John Wayne. "That's my favorite," he tells me.



Flying fantasies confront us at every turn.... Dreams, obsessions, and an astounding passion for leaping heavenward.

Will insisted on paying for the airtime—156 pounds, extracted from the brown paper envelope. And it is only when we leave the Ulster Flying Club that he confesses to not really being a member of the club, exactly. He won't let on completely how he does it, but as far as I can tell, he simply charms or scams his way in when the soaring mood strikes.

Another tattooed taxi driver slows beside us. In rainy twilight, the Queens College campus is a goth's paradise of twisted concrete turrets and intricate Victorian facades. As we walk across a wide lawn toward his dorm room, Will lets me in on a secret prank he and a friend want to pull off: They want to stick a pirate's flag atop the campus's central building. Or maybe, instead, a flag featuring pi to the nth degree.

His room is barely large enough for a single bed, a desk, and a visitor. Above the desk are two plastic figurines—Einstein and Boba Fett. There are just a handful of books—Douglas Adams, *The Third Policeman*, James Joyce. Tacked to a wall is the M. C. Escher drawing that's a requisite furnishing flair for all



Eric Scott goes fast—and high! (opposite); *Lost in Space* (top) remains a pillar of jetpacking pop culture history. As close as he's come so far: The author tries on some merchandise in Mexico.

undergraduates, regardless of nationality—the one where the hand is trippily drawing itself.

And then there are less common dorm-room images: several sketches of human skulls. Will catches me looking at them: "I don't have a death wish or anything!"

On the windowsill sit two potted Venus flytraps and a spider under glass. Will drops a wad of notebook paper into one of the plants to demonstrate—the fangs converge. "That's all, then."

Most of the available floor space is taken up by a computer Will is building. It's one of those prototypical, refrigerator-size jobs you can see in photos from the 1960s. Why? Why not—silly question. It's currently mid-production, so what I see is a jumble of exposed switches and wires. He picks up several tangled yellow cables, like a handful of tropical lizards. "This holds 40 numbers," he tells me. To which I say nothing, staring into his arched eyebrow. "Bytes," he clarifies. Ah.

"Do you know on *Star Trek*, those handheld machines that can describe the world?" he's now asking. "Well, I'm building one—it's a tricorder." By clamping sensors—tiny versions of car-battery jumper cables—to, say, a wall, the device will, ostensibly, be able to indicate how hot the wall is. Or how high. Or thick.

I have no time to contemplate this before Will is pointing out his MIG space helmet he found somewhere or other and then, lastly, he hands me the hacked HP 200LX mini computer he's rebuilt as something he calls Zico. "Go ahead, ask it a question."

I type on the tiny, hand-held keypad: "What do you think of Will?" The answer streams out in blocky, pixelated letters straight from 1987: "Thinking is not possible for me ... I just follow my computer program. William Madden created me." I look at the machine's God, who is smiling slyly.

In addition to all this science-fair wizardry, there is one earthly matter that Will is also currently obsessed with: coffee. He's only recently discovered its virtues. So much so that he's begun keeping a coffee log, wherein he meticulously chronicles, in perfectly neat penmanship, what he's consumed and where.

We decide to hit the dorm's communal kitchen to make a pot of joe. A young female student named Allie is cooking dinner, and Will seems to tense slightly in her presence. As he fiddles with the beans, Allie describes the campus demographics thusly:

"We have training nurses, training doctors, training lawyers." She looks at the architect of the ShamRocket. "And Will. We're not sure what Will's doing—Will, are you sure of what you're doing?"

His eyes stay fixed on the French press. "No."

Allie: "Inventing things, I guess."

The coffee is delicious.

It's getting late—my train back to Dublin will be leaving soon. I'm tempted to hang around with Will, but I'm not sure why. I suppose I'm reluctant to surrender to the idea that the guy I felt could help me fulfill my quest is not going to deliver. At least not now. Maybe not ever. I badly want to believe in Will—he should totally be the Luke Skywalker of jetpacks, the young hotshot who, despite the older cynics telling him not to get cocky, trusts the Force, trusts in himself, and somehow pulls off the greatest coup of all, destroying the Death Star. Except in this case the coup would be, you know, building a jetpack for me. This version of the story just makes sense: He's the only guy under 40 I've found who is: (A) really, really into this shit, and (B) apparently capable of doing something about it. Though at this point I have to admit that B is looking shakier by the minute.

If I get in yet another taxi and wave good-bye through the back windshield, will I also be waving good-bye to my last best chance at solving this 80-year riddle? I can't help but think that's the case.

But what good would hanging around Belfast do me? If Will is to be believed, and as of now, that's one big *if*, his brilliant machine is in a basement 147 miles south of here. And the ShamRocket is still months from completion.

Besides, Will has told me he'll e-mail images of the work in progress and let me know as soon as he settles on a demonstration date. And, he'll even help pay for my way back over to see the thing fly. Or, better yet, take it for a 15-minute physics-defying thrill ride myself. I should just trust in the inherent goodness and honesty of man. Go back to Dublin. Go home.

Which is what I do. I say good-bye to Will in front of the building on which he'd like to stick a pirate flag. He presses into my hand a relay switch from his super computer and three packs of Beermans chewing gum.

"It's what the astronauts chew," Will says. "For nausea."

Through the back window, I watch Will recede, standing in his Indiana Jones hat under the relentless drizzle. I really have no idea if I'll ever see him again. But one thing I do know is this: If I ever see Will Breaden-Madden again, one of us will be flying a jetpack.

Excerpted from *Jetpack Dreams* by Mac Montandon, by arrangement with Da Capo Press, a member of the Perseus Books Group. Copyright © 2008.



golden girls

Heather Vandeven, our 2007 Pet of the Year, usually takes some time to get to know her costar.

Her immediate rapport with Devon, however, means she can dive right in. This is unquestionably the start of a beautiful friendship.

Photographs by Charles Lightfoot



















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MORE OF HEATHER AND DEVON AT
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Penthouse Clubs: Myrtle Beach

Revving Our Engines

When a few hundred thousand bikers descended upon Myrtle Beach for the Bike Week rally, the Penthouse Club geared up for good times.

By Kara Wahlgren • Photographs by Bill Eadie



One of our favorite dancers from the Penthouse Club, Keira Riley, fully embraced the spirit of Bike Week.

Penthouse Clubs: Myrtle Beach

Some things are worth fighting for. Just ask the dozen girls who went glove-to-glove at Bike Week's Boxing for Boobs event, battling in the ring to win a free breast enhancement. Melissa Lamelza, the winner, beat out all the other babes, and we're hoping we'll see more of her enhanced assets in the future. The Penthouse Key Girls, who are always happy to lend their support to such a noble pursuit, were on hand at Club Kryptonite and acted as ring girls for the main event.

The next day, the action was back at the Penthouse Club for an afternoon bike wash, and those bikini-clad dancers looked as good as you can imagine. Thanks to the steamy South Carolina heat, the girls were more than happy to strip down and get soaking wet while they worked. Bikers lined up to get their hogs scrubbed down!

Pet of the Year Erica Elyson and Miss Nude World runner-up Keira Riley kept the party rolling into the wee hours, as the Penthouse Club transformed into Club Insomnia, an after-hours joint that doesn't shut down until 8 A.M. on weekends. In just one of the night's highlights, Keira sparked patriotic fever in the crowd by stripping out of a sexy camo outfit and painting stars and stripes on her naked body.

On Saturday afternoon, people poured into the Penthouse Club for the wildly popular tattoo contest. Local artist Jeff Cribb of Hero Tattoo took on the tough task of judging the ink, and handed out awards for the most creative, best black and white,

Thanks to the South Carolina heat, the girls at the bike wash were more than happy to get soaking wet while they worked.



A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a pink bikini with white polka dots, leaning over a red and chrome motorcycle. She is wearing clear high-heeled sandals. Her back is to the camera, and she is looking towards the right. The motorcycle has a large engine and a custom paint job. In the background, there are trees, a parking lot with several cars, and a person standing on the left side.

The owner of the Myrtle Beach Penthouse Club, Mike Rose, got cozy with 2008 Pet of the Year Erica Ellison (top left). The Boxing for Boobs contest and bike wash provided the girls with plenty of opportunities to get in one another's face...in a good way.



The club's hottest dancers capped off the wild weekend by locking lips in a steamy kissing contest. They were in it to win it!

best color, and best overall male and female tattoos. One blonde lifted her shirt to show off a delicate tribal design peeking out above her thong—but as she peeled off the top, she revealed a colorful tiki tat that stretched from her neck to her waist.

Still, even the sexiest ink couldn't compete with that evening's events. Girls flaunted their best moves in a pole-aerobics competition, captivating the crowd with their intertwined bodies and acrobatic maneuvers. Then the club's hottest dancers capped off the wild weekend by locking lips in a steamy kissing contest. They were in it to win it—the girl-on-girl action nearly needed an X rating. It was a fitting finale to the rowdy festivities. "Bike Week was awesome!" says Penthouse Club owner Mike Rose. "Our best so far. It's always a fun crowd, and we have even more planned for next year." OH—

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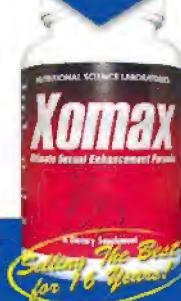
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express yourself

Jennifer Avelon, a 31-year-old Baltimore native who's taking art classes in New York City, considers modeling an extension of her fine-arts education. "I paint nude models, so I have—and have to have—a real appreciation for the body and how it's expressed."

Photographs by Christopher Love

"Sometimes I paint in just a smock. I'm messy and I get paint everywhere. It's totally fun. The UPS guy caught me once when all I was wearing was an apron!"







"I'm always up for a quickie! I've had sex in so many exciting places: Central Park, a taxi, an elevator, at the movies."



"My biggest turn-on is talking dirty. I love when a man tells me exactly what he's going to do to me. Tell me you want to taste me, ravage me"





"The most daring thing I've ever done was jump topless out of a birthday cake. I wasn't too wild as a teenager, so it's taken me years to get really wild. I'm almost there."



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ART BY MATT ERIKSON • COLOR BY BRYON DAVIDSON

BLONDE AMBITION

MINDY WAS A PRETTY GIRL WITH BROWN HAIR, BUT NOW SHE WAS A GORGEOUS BLONDE. NOTHING ELSE HAD CHANGED. IT WAS JUST THAT YOU NOTICED HER MORE—HER PERKY TITS, LITHE HIPS, AND FINE ASS. SURE, I'D FANTASIZED ABOUT FUCKING HER BEFORE, BUT NOW...



DUE TO RECENT CUTBACKS, THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF EMPTY OFFICES. MINDY LED AND I FOLLOWED.

I'm not blonde all over, though. Want to see?

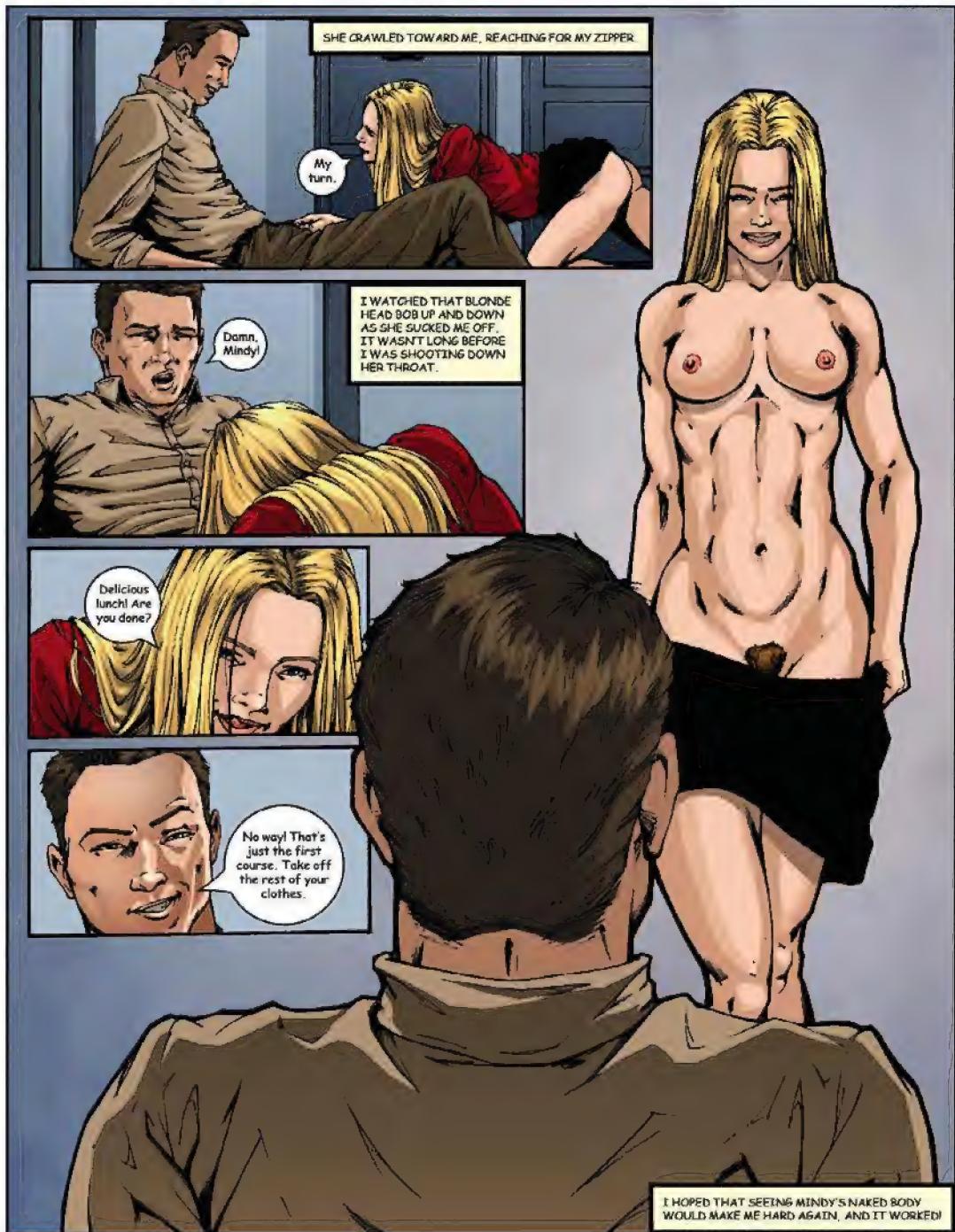
What do you think?

MY COCK HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO STIR WHEN SHE RAISED HER SKIRT. I WENT AHEAD AND PULLED DOWN HER THONG.

There's your lunch.

SHE LEANED BACK AGAINST THE DESK AND SPREAD HER LEGS FOR ME. I DOVE RIGHT IN TONGUE FIRST. MINDY TURNED OUT TO BE THE BEST LUNCH I'D EVER HAD.

MINDY CERTAINLY SEEMED TO ENJOY PROVIDING THE EATS. SHE SANK TO THE FLOOR AFTER SHE CLIMAXED.



I PULLED OFF
MY CLOTHES
AND PUSHED
HER BACK ON
THE DESK

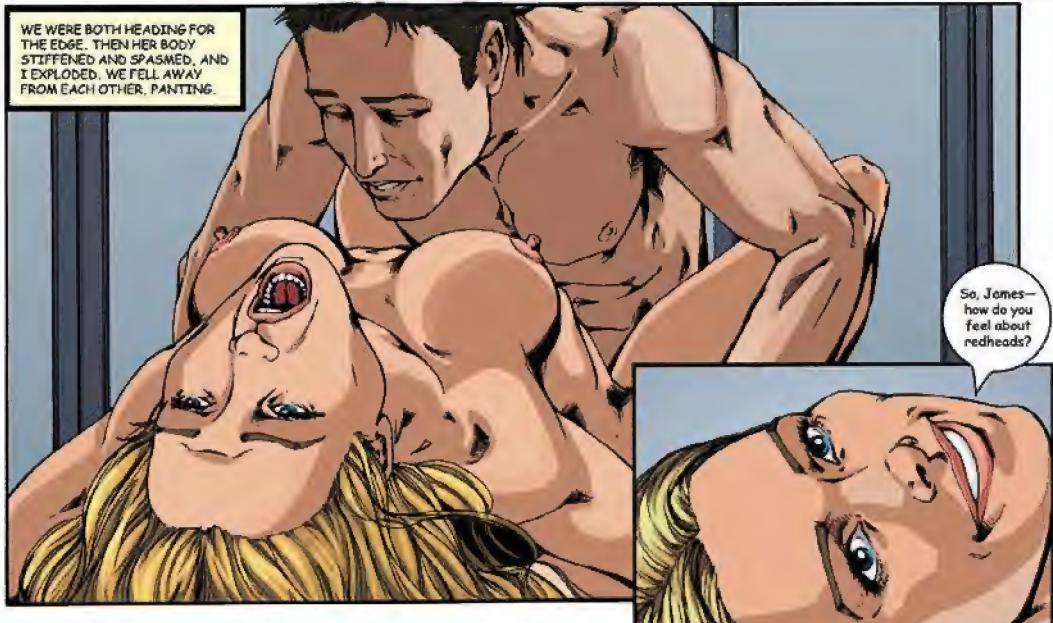


MINDY MOANED AS I WORKED MY COCK INTO HER, THEN PUSHED AGAINST ME. WE STARTED TO MOVE, SLOWLY AT FIRST, THEN FASTER AND HARDER. GOD, IT WAS SO HOT! SHE WAS MEETING ME THRUST FOR THRUST.

WE WERE BOTH HEADING FOR THE EDGE. THEN HER BODY STIFFENED AND SPASMED, AND I EXPLODED. WE FELL AWAY FROM EACH OTHER, PANTING.

So, James—
how do you
feel about
redheads?

THE END?



Ready to Serve

We'll be at the beck and call of these political leaders anytime.

Power must be sexy. How else do you explain all the tail that our (at best) average-looking political leaders—Bill Clinton, Eliot Spitzer, Henry Kissinger (!)—have gotten? Here's a look around the world at a few women in politics who could use sex appeal alone to woo supporters.



Ilona Staller

During the 1970s, this blonde bombshell donned the name La Cicciolina and starred in a number of adult films. In 1987, she was elected to the Italian parliament and served four years. After, she married artist Jeff Koons and was immortalized in his realistic sculptures of the pair having sex.



Mara Carfagna

Staller helped pave the way for this dark-haired Italian beauty, who posed nude for numerous publications prior to running for office. She made new headlines in 2007 when the then prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, commented that he wished he were free to marry her.

Queen Rania
The wife of King Abdullah II of Jordan worked at Citibank and in Apple's IT department, but she's so much more than an intelligent geek. In addition to heading up many of Jordan's social programs, in 2005 the world's youngest queen was named the third-most-beautiful woman alive by *Harper's Bazaar*.



Dr. Ruby Dhalla

This stunning Canadian beauty of Indian descent had a strong interest in politics even as a young girl (at ten, she wrote a letter to the prime minister of India advocating peace). After attending medical school, she became a health-care advocate and was elected to Canada's parliament in 2004—11 years after coming in second in the Miss India-Canada pageant.



Carla Bruni

After marrying the president of France in February, this one-time Mick Jagger squeeze released an album with songs about drug use and promiscuity. A nude modeling shot of her recently sold at auction for \$91,000. Take that, Laura Bush.
—Christine Colby

Spa-velous

This winter, treat your lady to what she really wants. Just don't tell her it's what she needs.

New York City has long been home to luxury spa treatments for every exposed inch of skin on trophy wives who need to keep up appearances. But the city really has everything covered now that Dr. Lauri Romanzi has opened Phit, a spa dedicated to "pelvic fitness" (read: the vagina). Phit offers gynecological exams, and clients also will be able to have their hoo-hahs stimulated by electricity and non-surgically contoured to be firmer. While we'd be more enthusiastic about treatments that improve ladies' performance in bed, we're in favor of anything that makes women more willing to show off what they've got.



Melon Balls

A fruity fix to erectile dysfunction.



According to Dr. Bhimanagouda Patil of Texas A&M's Fruit and Vegetable Improvement Center, watermelon—like Viagra—can relax your blood vessels and boost nitric-oxide levels, which helps treat erectile dysfunction by increasing blood flow. But, unlike Pfizer's magic drug, it can also help lower high blood pressure without any adverse side effects. Of course, you may experience more sleepless nights, if you know what we mean, but we think you'll be okay with that. 

She Said It

"If I'm going to be linked with someone, I could do an affair with Angelina Jolie, Jessica Alba, or Charlize Theron. And Kate Beckinsale is gorgeous. There are so many beautiful girls."

—Heroes star
Hayden Panettiere on
the tabloids



auto erotica

Sandra lifted the keys to her boyfriend's sexy new convertible for a joyride with her girlfriend Judy. He claims racing is the ultimate turn-on, and these speed demons are revved up and ready to test the theory.

Photographs by Viv Thomas







The girls tear down the highway till they can't possibly wait another minute to pull over for a pit stop—no lube job needed here!





A photograph of two women in a dark-colored car. One woman, with dark hair and a tattoo on her left shoulder, is leaning over the other woman, who has blonde hair and is wearing a black bikini. They are both topless. The woman being kissed is looking down at the other woman's face. The interior of the car is visible, including the steering wheel and dashboard.

Sandra is so aroused by zipping around hairpin turns at top speed that now she races to pop open Judy's trunk and see just what's under her hood.



After popping Judy's clutch, Sandra eases her wet and willing girlfriend into high gear ... and a state of total ecstasy.





Judy screams as she crosses the finish line, then flips Sandra over so she can take a few laps of her own. This taste test is sure to go on for hours.

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THE TIME OF OUR WIVES

Penthouse Letters

Wicked Wives: A Voyeur's Diary

Adultery and infidelity get a different treatment in director Guy Capo's homage to horny housewives. My favorite scene features Penthouse Pets Sophia Santi and Daisy Marie in a threesome with Nick Manning, who thinks he's about to catch his wife with another guy, but gets drawn into a different scenario entirely. It's a shame Santi still works only with women, because the way she deep-throats a dildo proves that she'd do

Top: Sophia Santi, Daisy Marie, Nick Manning.
Below: Daisy Marie

some intense boy-girl fucking. I doubt Manning shares my disappointment, though, since he still gets to work out on Daisy Marie—and the tiny Latina definitely gets a workout. Between their banging and Santi's solo dildo dipping, this is a great scene for fans of B-G-G threesomes with well-inked lesbians. Superexotic Nautica Thorn has an S&M-themed scene that takes a wild turn when her trussed-up husband realizes he only gets to watch her fuck another man in front of him (like he should complain about that). Nikki Benz shares a dirty fantasy with her hubby, who tells her the story of a three-way that just might happen.... Capo strikes a good balance between the fun and the fucking, and that's definitely a good thing.



**AFFAIRS OF THE TART****Penthouse***Where There's Smoke*

Van Damage plays the dual role of a private investigator and your narrator/host of four tales of adultery and its consequences. The opener finds him lurking in the shadows, watching Victoria Sin take a healthy dose of Marcus London's cock, including a prolonged bout of anal whose ending makes a dirty scene even dirtier. Holly West is the dazzling dame who hires Damage to trail her husband (Chris Cannon), who is indeed fucking another woman, played by the stunning Brooke Banner, who herself is spending time with the equally stunning Kimberly Kane. Banner and Kane's coupling is slow and sexy and bound to please, even if lesbian sex isn't necessarily your favorite part of a porno. (Sometimes two hot blondes dyke-ing it up is all it takes, though.) Van Damage gets some action himself, from Nyomi Marcela, and, well, I won't serve up a spoiler here, but suffice it to say a nice twist wraps up all the pieces at the end.

**BRAZILIAN WHACKS****Penthouse Forum***Southern Exxposure*

There's no surprise as to what this one's about—the subtlety of sex in lush, tropical locales—but it is surprisingly well-executed, especially considering that there's no dialogue or plot to speak of. In this case it actually helps to make the action that much more exciting; at times it's almost like you're spying on couples playing in the sand. A lesbian scene sets the pace as slim, brown-skinned Suzanna Scott and Karine Muller satisfy each other orally and manually with an enthusiasm betraying a real attraction. Paloma Sanchez pulls off the best scene here. Like all the others, it takes place in a beautiful beach locale, but Sanchez and her partner Maurino create their own kind of heat; his weighty cock finds a warm and wet home in Sanchez's mouth, and she does her best to swallow it down. The scene reaches a more heady crescendo when she gets her ass fucked and starts moaning in Portuguese before the scene-ending come shot. 

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Top left: Holly West.
Top right: Suzanna Scott, Karine Muller

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GETTIN' DOWN BY THE RIVER

There's a secluded place by a river about 15 miles south of my town. The main highway passes right over it, but as long as you're doing 70 miles per hour, you can't really tell for certain if anyone's in the water. Heavy traffic is another story.

There are about six large rocks in the river, which form a small pool from the main stream. I've found it's the perfect place to drink beer and cool off. That's why once or twice a week, I park my truck under the bridge and make my way down the steep, winding path to that river. I've never encountered anyone else, so I feel comfortable going into the river with nothing but my two cans of beer.

One day I was about to get out and dry off in the sun on one of the bigger rocks under the bridge when I heard movement in the bushes and the crunch of gravel on the path. A few seconds later, I saw a woman walking toward the river. She stopped when she noticed me sitting in the water up to my chest.

She smiled and said, "Hi. I saw your truck and thought someone might be down here. How's the water?"

I was at a loss for words. This was a beautiful, twenty-something woman, wearing cut-offs so short the pockets

showed and the tiniest of T-shirts over an ample chest. When I realized I was staring, I said, "Not bad at all. I'm Kyle. Come in and see for yourself." Then I remembered my trunks were on the rocks and I was buck-naked.

"Cool," she said. "My name's April." She dropped her towel and her bag on the bank and took off her shirt and I thought, *God, what a set of tits!* Then she turned her back to me and peeled off the skimpy shorts to reveal an even skimpier thong!

"Watch out for the sharp rocks," I said, as she came closer.

"Don't worry, I've been here before," she said, as she carefully worked her way over the rocks and into the pool, where I sat with a raging hard-on.

I moved behind her and reached around to feel her breasts. She gasped once I started rubbing and gently pulling her nipples.

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"So, April, would you like a cold beer?" I asked.

"Sure," she said. I gave her my unopened can and stared at her beautiful breasts, which were barely encased in her top. "I hope you don't mind," she added, "but I usually skinny-dip when I come down here." Then she took her top off.

"Hell, no," I said. "That's exactly what I'm doing!"

"Really?" she asked. And to prove I wasn't lying, I stood up so she could see my dick was pointing toward her. She smiled and said, "I don't have to ask what you were doing before I arrived," she said.

"It got that way as soon as I saw you," I said. Then I asked her if she needed any help with the bottom half of her suit. She smiled again and turned her back, so I moved behind her and reached around to feel her breasts. She gasped when my dick poked her butt, but once I started rubbing and gently pulling her nipples she moaned.

"God, that feels so good!" she said. I took that as a green light, and slid one hand down to pull off her thong. When she stepped out of it, I tossed it onto the bank with her top. Then she turned around, grabbed my dick, led me to the smoothest boulder at the river's edge, and told me to sit down. Then she knelt down and almost swallowed me whole! God, she was good! She kept going until I pulled her up. If I'd let her continue, it would have been over in seconds.

"Your turn," I said. Now I may not be the best at eating pussy, but I do believe in giving the pussy as much attention as possible. We changed places and I pulled her legs over my shoulders and went straight for the magic button. She started moaning a little, but when I pushed two fingers into her at the same time, she went nuts. She started squirming and pulled me closer. When I slid one up her ass, she let out an amazing scream that I'm sure scared every living creature in the area.

When she'd calmed down she said, "Let's get back in the water." At that point, my dick was aching to be inside her. She moved to the middle of the pool where we could see the cars and trucks going over the bridge. I slipped into the water right next to her as a bus went by overhead.



"You want to do it right here where they might see us?" I asked. Traffic was light, but ...

"Why not?" she said. "Besides, I like it when someone's watching." So I grabbed her ass and pulled her pussy toward my dick. She moaned as I slid halfway in. I've only fucked in the water once before, but I can say there's no other feeling like it. I started rocking her back and forth, sliding a little more of me into her tight box with each stroke. It helped when I picked her up and she wrapped her legs around my back. Then I really started working her. She held on tight through the action and cried out again as an orgasm ripped through her. She was still riding that wave of pleasure, and I was still deep inside her, when I thought my balls had detonated, and I climaxed.

I started rocking her back and forth, sliding a little more of me into her tight box with each stroke.

I pulled my dick out and set her down on her feet. We leaned against each other, breathing hard. Then she gave me the most prolonged kiss I have ever had.

"That was the best!" she said. "I would love to do it again—maybe with my friend Gina watching!"

I grinned like a fool and said, "Same time tomorrow!" But that's another long story!—G.K., Texas

ROSES AND RAZORS

Last Valentine's Day I sent my girlfriend, Karen, a dozen red roses, and then at dinner I gave her earrings. For the first time since we'd been together, I managed to surprise and please her. But it was Karen's gift to me that was most surprising.

Karen told me I'd get my gift from her when we got home. My mind raced and I wondered if I was getting some new toy to play with, like a flat-panel LCD, or maybe a GPS unit for my car. And knowing exactly how my mind worked, Karen added that

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I should be prepared to eat a whole lot of shaved pussy. Okay, not quite what I expected, but toys still could be involved—sex toys!

I was excited and intrigued because I'd been after Karen to let me shave her pussy for some time, but each time I brought it up, she'd adamantly refused. Was she going to let me have my wish, or had she already done the deed? It really didn't matter. I just knew I was going to enjoy whatever she had in store.

When we got home, Karen told me to give her a few minutes and went upstairs to the bedroom. I waited five long minutes, then took the stairs two at a time. The door was slightly ajar and I could see she'd lit a candle. I crossed the threshold and thought I had double vision: Karen was on the bed in a red lace bra and matching panties. Next to her was our friend Cheryl, wearing identical lingerie. If looking at them made the blood rush to my cock and gave me an instant erection, I couldn't imagine how good it would feel to touch them.

"I didn't tell you the whole truth, Dan," Karen said. "You're going to be swimming in pussy."

While I stood at the foot of the bed undressing, Karen and Cheryl smiled and admired my hard-on. They removed their bras, and while I'd seen Karen naked hundreds of times, I'd never before seen Cheryl wearing less than a bikini. She was just as beautiful and curvaceous as Karen, but with a duskier complexion. And both their pussies had been shaved clean. I couldn't believe how different Karen's cunt looked and couldn't wait to sample it.

"So, what do you think, baby?" Karen asked, smiling. "Is it what you expected?"

"I think I'm looking at the two most beautiful pussies ever!" I said, as I joined them on the bed.

I knelt between Karen and Cheryl, ran my fingers over their smooth mounds, and gently rubbed their stiff clits with my fingers. Then I moved between my girlfriend's legs, eager to feast on her bald twat. She felt like silk against my tongue, sleek and smooth. My tongue moved easily over and in her. I felt as if I were in uncharted territory. She felt so good against my tongue and lips. I didn't think I could ever get enough of her.

Karen, on the other hand, was going crazy. She moaned and gyrated under my oral assault. Suddenly, she was holding me close to her smooth cunt and crying out as tremors racked her body.

"Now it's my turn," Cheryl said excitedly as she bounced on the bed.

I spread her legs and dove right in for my second helping. The sounds of both women moaning made me look up. Karen and Cheryl were locked in a passionate kiss, which spurred me on even more. It wasn't long before I had Cheryl's sweet release on my lips.

Watching these two gorgeous blondes sucking the juices from each other's pussy was incredibly erotic.

Eating them out had been a real treat, but I had to feel those sleek twats against my cock. When I told Karen and Cheryl that I wanted to fuck both of them but that I was too excited to do either of them for very long, Cheryl took my cock in her mouth and gave me one of the best blowjobs I'd ever had.

Then I asked Karen and Cheryl to play with each other while I watched. They got into a sixty-nine, and the sight of them eating each other out had me saluting again in no time. Watching these two gorgeous blondes sucking the juices from each other's cunt was incredibly erotic. Just as beautiful was when Karen got up on her hands and knees and pressed her twat to Cheryl's mouth when she came. I couldn't watch anymore. I was rock-hard and ready to fuck.

I told Karen and Cheryl to get on all fours, side by side, and I moved back



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and forth between them, fucking their hot, juicy cunts. They were so slick, inside and out, and felt unbelievable gliding against my cock. I kept up the pace as long as I could, switching from one silky pussy to the other until I couldn't take anymore. I moved into Karen and erupted, shooting what felt like gallons of come.

The incredible threesome lasted late into the next morning, but the party came to an abrupt end when the girls started talking about shaving me. I wasn't quite ready for that. But I did have a great Valentine's Day.—D.M., Minnesota

HARD AT WORK

No one works late in my office on Friday afternoons, especially during the summer. By 5 P.M. all my coworkers have already split for the weekend. I'm not a workaholic—I'm just not a morning person and I never get in before 9:30, so I'm usually the last one to leave the building.

One Friday, I was catching up on my e-mail when I thought I heard the copy machine running. Naturally, I left my office and headed toward the sound to see who else was crazy

enough to still be around. It was Gracie, our new hire. Her back was to me, but I would have recognized that luscious ass anywhere. She dresses well, yet she's so fucking sexy-looking. Several times a day, my imagination would run wild with fantasies of her coming on to me. I said hello to her, but she just looked over her shoulder, gave me a quick nod, and went on with her copying.

Well, so much for a friendly chat between coworkers. A few minutes later, Gracie came into my office and asked me if I knew how to unjam the copier. I told her I hadn't a clue, but she hung around anyway, so we started talking. She told me she'd just split with her boyfriend and had gotten her own place, but she wasn't too happy living by herself. Being a man, I wasn't really listening to her. I was too busy staring at her rack. Her tits looked

ready to burst out of her blouse, and I could hardly keep my eyes off them. Then she must have asked my opinion on something, but I was too mesmerized by her pneumatic breasts and she had to repeat the question.

"So, do you?" she asked. "Do you think I'm attractive?" Then she shot me a smile and walked toward me.

"Of course," I said. "You're fucking beautiful!"

She laughed a little and said she'd wondered why I'd never come on to her, especially since every other man in the office had. I told her I'd thought about it and was just waiting for the right moment. Apparently the moment was right, because Gracie slid onto my lap and started kissing me. My heart was racing as she moaned into my mouth and ground her ass against my lap. My dick was as hard as steel, so she had to feel it through her skirt. I turned her around and filled my hands with those gorgeous boobs. Her nipples were as hard as bullets, and when I tweaked them between my fingers her head fell back on my shoulder and she sighed. I kissed her neck and tugged on her

Her skin was silky smooth and should have had a sign posted on it that read Slippery When Wet.

earlobe with my teeth. Then I slid one hand under her skirt, and guess what? No panties! Her skin was silky smooth and should have had a sign posted that read Slippery When Wet. My fingers glided easily along her pussy lips and right into her wet hole. As I slowly moved them in and out, she pressed my other hand against her breast and rocked against my dick.

Suddenly, she started breathing hard and moving faster and faster. I did my best to keep up with her hips until she crested and relaxed against me. I was about to shift her off my lap when she turned and unzipped my pants. My dick was so ready for action, it popped right out when she pulled down my briefs. Then she slid to her knees, and when her hot mouth engulfed me, I was the one moaning. I told her how good it felt and that she had me so turned on I was about to explode. She started sucking harder and harder, taking me deeper and deeper, and when I started to come, she moaned right along with me, swallowed, and continued sucking even when I'd finished.

I was still hard and wanted to fuck her in the worst way, but I also wanted to show her that I could give as good as I get. I pulled her up, eased her onto the desk, and raised her skirt. I licked

her slit once and she cried out for more. When I buried my tongue in her pussy, she wrapped her legs around me, pulling me closer. I tongue-fucked her and she moaned, "Yeah, fuck me!"

Then I gave her my one-two combo of fingers and tongue. I popped my thumb into her pussy, sucked on her clit, and slipped a finger into her tight ass. Gracie's hips came off the desk and she cried out in pure ecstasy. I stayed with her through her tremors, not letting up until she climaxed and her breathing returned to normal.

As soon as she was ready, I pulled her up and turned her around. Then Gracie reached back, grabbed my dick, and rubbed it back and forth against her snatch until it was saturated with her juices. I was ready to take the plunge, but Gracie directed me toward her backdoor. Now, I had tried anal sex once before with a girlfriend, but she didn't like it. Apparently that wasn't the case with Gracie. She told

She started sucking harder, taking me deeper and deeper. When I started to come, she moaned right along with me.



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me to sit in the chair, then slowly lowered herself onto my shaft. I couldn't believe how incredibly tight she felt. I wrapped my arms around her and held her steady for a couple of seconds so I wouldn't come right away.

When I gave her the go-ahead, she started rocking us both. With one hand on her breast and the other on her clit, I started thrusting deep in her ass. The harder I fucked her, the harder she slammed back. I was ready to come and I wanted her to come with me. I didn't have to worry about her keeping up—she started to shake uncontrollably just before she cried out her release. We pushed each other over the edge and crashed through our orgasms. Un-fucking-believable didn't even begin to cover it. We just sat in my chair with my dick still in her ass and tried to catch our breath.

Eventually she got up, pulled down her skirt, and left me alone. She must have gone to the restroom, because she returned and handed me some wet towels. Then she kissed me, thanked me for a great lay, and told me to have a good weekend.

On Monday, we greeted each other and acted as if the encounter never occurred. I wondered if she would be working late again on Friday, but I didn't ask. She knows where to find me—when she wants another good lay!—via the Internet

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Our Pet of the Year Play-off and the announcement of the winners are always the high points of the year for us, and obviously for all of you, who call, write, and e-mail in reaction for months afterward. Next month, however, in the calm before the catfight, enjoy a leisurely look back at our 2008 Pets, and decide who your favorites are. The lovely ladies vying to

replace our 2008 Pet of the Year, Erica Elyson, will be joined by Pet of the Month Tori Black and, as always, two supersteamy girl-on-girl sets. To see what else we're cooking up, you'll just have to pick up the December issue.

Sandy and Cindy



Erica Elyson,
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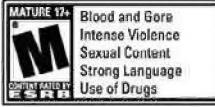
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